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FILE No. 175/11/29... ^{PT 2}
Closed March 1953.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

Middle East Division

SUBJECT.
<i>Israel Relations with Jordan.</i>

PREVIOUS FILE:	<i>175/11/29 Part I</i>
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In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3.

Memo No. 336/53.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 MAR 1953

175/11/29
CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

25th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israeli/Jordan tension.

One of "Reuters" diplomatic correspondents in London, a Pamela Matthews, has telegraphed the Hebrew press in Israel to the effect that representatives of the British and Jordan Governments are currently discussing in London a proposal to reinforce British troops stationed in Jordan. This step is said to be under contemplation in view of the mounting tension between Jordan and Israel. No further details are available.

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

*Why not some investigation
by Australian Legation, Tel
Aviv as to reliability of above
report?*



In reply quote No. 2/5/1

Memo. No. 500/53

24th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordanian - Israeli Relations

1. Further to this Legation's memorandum No 451/53 of 20th February, condemnation of the Israelis as the perpetrators of the recent frontier incidents with Jordan has continued unabated.

2. In a letter to the London "Times" a few days ago the Israeli Ambassador in London suggested that the recent frontier incidents had been occasioned by the accidental crossing of the frontier by Israeli forces in pursuit of armed bands of Jordanese; the Ambassador suggested that the commanders on each side of the frontier should consult to prevent such incidents. In a reply published by the newspaper on 19th February, the Jordanian Ambassador in London wrote:

" This is a most improbable story unless it is a fact that the Israeli army commonly chases marauders with Piat bombs and Bangalore torpedoes... Jordan recommends that Jordanian and Israeli police officers be connected by direct telephone across the border in order that thefts may be notified in time for the thieves to be intercepted by either side, since it is not ~~not~~ possible to trace such crimes if information is received days and often weeks later.

" However, though the Israelis occasionally agree to cooperate in this way for a short time, after a few months they unaccountably denounce cooperation and send military punitive expeditions to attack Jordanian villages.

" Thus the suggestion that a meeting should take place between the commanders on either side in order to reduce tension appears rather insincere, coming as it does from the side which, by its recent acts of military aggression, has deliberately created the situation it now professes to deplore.

" In politics, brutality eventually exacts its own price. The nuisance of vilification is the price the Israelis are now paying for the inhumanity with which they liquidated Arab residents in their own fatherland."

3. It will be recalled that, following the invocation of the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty of 1948 by Jordan, the United Kingdom made strong representations to the Israeli Government, at the same time advising Jordan that it was prepared to abide by the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty. It appears that discussions have been going on between the United Kingdom and Jordan since the invocation of the Treaty. The subject of these discussions is not known, but a Reuter's report from London on 22nd February stated that "usually well-informed quarters" believed that the two Governments were discussing a proposal to re-inforce British troops stationed on Jordanian territory in order to deter further Jewish "aggressions".

He already receive the time!!

Copy 1/1

4. The United States has now, like Britain, come down on the side of Jordan. This was in reply to Jordan's call for its support as a signatory to the 1950 Tripartite Declaration (see paragraphs 23 of this Legation's memorandum No. 260/53 of 4th February and 8 of this Legation's memorandum No. 334/53 of 10th February). When the United States Ambassador in Amman called on the Jordanian Acting Prime Minister, Sayed Said el Moufti, on 14th February, he advised him that his Government had already warned Israel to stop its attacks on Jordan. The Ambassador emphasized the concern of the American Government at the recent Jewish aggressions against Jordanian frontier villages, and told the Acting Prime Minister that his Government considered the attack by Israel on the village of Falma as a premeditated military action. The Ambassador added that the United States did not condone in any way the Jewish aggressions. America felt bound by the Tripartite Declaration to preserve peace in this part of the Near East.

5. In spite of the warnings, incidents have continued to occur along the frontier, this being symptomatic of the continuous nature of the tension which gives rise to them. In spite of the fact that they had on 8th February acceded to the Jordanian ultimatum that they cease their protected ploughing operations in a no-man's-land area near Latrun, (see paragraph 3 of this Legation's memorandum No. 405/53 of 17th February), Jewish workers with a strong armed escort recommenced ploughing operations in the same area on 16th February. The Jordanian authorities submitted a complaint to the joint Jordan-Israel Truce Committee. On 15th February, it was reported from Beirut that a Jewish patrol had crossed the Lebanese frontier and kidnapped a shepherd in the village of Ghita el Shaab, taking with him his flock into Israeli territory. There have been continuous reports that Jewish aircraft have continued their flights over Arab territory; this was earlier the subject of a Jordanian complaint to the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee (see paragraph 10 of this Legation's memorandum No. 334/53).

6. The Jews for their part have charged the Jordanians with two recent frontier violations. An Israeli Army Spokesman stated that on the night of 18th February, an Israeli patrol in the central Negev had encountered a "party of armed infiltrators"; they had killed three of the "infiltrators" and taken one prisoner. The Army Spokesman declared that on the following day a "Jordanian force penetrated into Israeli territory ... north-east of Beigh Jubrin in the northern Negev. The Jordanian unit encountered Israeli security forces, and after a short engagement during which an Israeli soldier was killed, the Jordanians were driven off".

7. Copies of this memorandum are being forwarded to the Australian Embassy, Washington, the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York, the External Affairs Office, London, and the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
4 MAR 1953
175/11/29
AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

In reply to No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 248/53.

18th February, 1953.

CONFIDENTIAL

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier:
The Israel Foreign Minister says Britain
shows bias in favour of Jordan.

The British Ambassador to Israel, Sir Francis Evans, told me last evening, February 17th, 1953, that, late on Sunday night the 15th instant, the Director-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs telephoned him and said that the Foreign Affairs Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, would very much like to see Evans in Jerusalem the following morning, at, say, 9.30 a.m. He said that, if this appointment were inconvenient for the Ambassador, he was authorised to tell Sir Francis Evans what Sharett wanted to talk about, but Sharett had said that he would much prefer to see Evans personally.

Evans Sees Sharett

The British Ambassador, Sir Francis Evans, called on Foreign Minister Sharett at the latter's office in Jerusalem on Monday at the request of the Foreign Minister.

The situation on the borders was discussed.

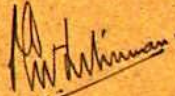
2. Evans told me that it was particularly inconvenient for him to go to Jerusalem, as suggested by Sharett, but he felt that Sharett might possibly have something of importance to say, and he thought that he should meet the wishes of the Foreign Minister. He therefore told the Director-General that Sharett could expect him at 9.30 a.m. the following day as suggested.

3. Evans said that Sharett appeared obviously ill-at-ease when they settled down to talk, but he came to the point without delay. He told Evans that the Government of Israel felt "a particular grievance that the British Foreign Office spokesman and Selwyn Lloyd in the Commons, when each had referred individually to the tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier recently, both had shown positive bias in favour of Jordan." Evans said that Sharett, having "got off this set piece" then "floundered about" for a quarter of an hour or so trying to convince Evans that Israel was entirely blameless; that the Jordanians were provocative, etcetera; and that they had been responsible for so many breaches of the Armistice Agreement that "it was inconceivable that Britain could hold any brief for the Jordan Government in this matter."

4. Evans told me that he let Sharett "talk himself out" and then said: "Now is that your case Mr. Sharett?" Sharett said it was: that there was nothing to add to it. Evans then informed him that, in the view of H.M.G. in the United Kingdom, (based on factual data), the Jordanians had been and continued to be guilty of sporadic raids into Israel territory by individual civilian marauders and by groups of armed infiltrators. These acts did not, however, justify organised punitive expeditions, deep into Jordan territory,

by military detachments of the Israel regular Army, armed with modern weapons of destruction which were used indiscriminately to kill and maim innocent Jordanian villagers; nor could H.M.G. overlook the bombing of Jordan villages by mortar fire and grenades, and the demolition of villages by high explosives. Those acts, Evans told Sharett, were premeditated and well organised military actions and were positive breaches of the Armistice Agreement and flagrant violation of Jordan's frontier the integrity of which was guaranteed by the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 and by Britain under the Anglo-Jordan Treaty of 1948.

5. Evans told me that Sharett "seemed dumbfounded" for a minute or two, and merely said: "Thank you very much for making the journey to Jerusalem to see me: it was very good of you to come." Evans said that a few common-place remarks followed and he took his leave.



O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No.

Memo No. 244/53.

17th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier.

Will you please refer to my memorandum
no. 212/53 of February 10th, 1953.

2. I regret exceedingly that, through
inadvertence, the attached translations of excerpts
from the Hebrew press and certain press cuttings were
not affixed to and forwarded with my memorandum under
notice. Apologies are tendered for this omission.

Oh! At last!

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

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TENSION ON THE ISRAEL/JORDAN FRONTIER
TRANSLATION OF EXCERPTS FROM THE HEBREW PRESS
(source: British Embassy, Israel)

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February 8th 1953.

Sunday morning and evening papers:

1. BRITAIN BLAMES ISRAEL FOR BORDER INCIDENTS

All the Hebrew press give prominence to the statement of the Foreign Ministry denying that a warning was made by Britain regarding the border incidents. Herut and Omer devote their leading articles to the subject. In addition, KolHaam and Herut publish articles on this topic.

An INA report from London states that Sir James Bowker's remarks to Elath mean that Britain holds Israel responsible for the tension along the borders,

Bowker told Elath that Britain condemned the recent border incidents and especially Israel's attacks on two Arab villages on 23rd January. (Herut, Haboker, Al Hamishmar)

It is pointed out in London that Britain's representation to Israel did not come as a result of Jordan's demand to invoke the Anglo-Jordan Treaty, but was due to the fact that Britain was keen on safeguarding peace and stability in the Middle East. (Herut)

Rumours are circulating in Britain that Dr. Bunche has tried to bring about a rapprochement between Egypt and Israel. (Haaretz)

Commenting on the Foreign Ministry's denial, Al Hamishmar states that the statement hinted that there was a discrepancy between the Foreign Office "warning" and Sir Francis Evans' "expression of regret". The paper adds that no matter what the basis of this discrepancy may be, it is clear that the Foreign Office "saw to it that wide publicity was given to the firm statement made by the Foreign Office spokesman and that an impression of a purely British action would thus be created".

The paper remarks that by supplying jet 'planes to the Arab States, Britain emphasized that she did not renounce her influence in this region.

"Warning to Britain" (Herut Leading Article)

Britain's claim that Israel is responsible for the border tension and Israel's reply putting the blame on Jordan are not correct. According to that paper, Israel's reply should state that "the responsibility should lie on the British authorities only. The infiltration is the continuation of war against Israel, a war where only one party is active, while the other one maintains a truce".

Israel will not put up with the severance of the rest of Palestine and considers Jordan "as merely a British military base". The paper recalls that the Arab Legion "paid and equipped by Britain and under British Command", was the first force to attack the newly formed State of Israel.

Following the establishment of the State, "some persons, including optimists from the Foreign Ministry" tried to explain that Britain had turned into a friend.

It is regrettable that America was fooled by British propaganda which presents Israel as the aggressor".

"The fate of the present warning will be similar to those uttered in the past. Let Britain return her forces to their bases east of the Jordan as a temporary settlement of the present conflict, that is if she sincerely desires peace along the two banks of Jordan".

"West Submits Ultimatum"

K. Katznelson reviews the recent developments in the border culminating in the warnings made by the U.S.A. and Britain.

The writer stresses the publicity given by the Foreign Office and the State Department to Moscow libels. He adds that the West, and particularly Eden should do something for Israel, in the light of the denunciations of Moscow libels. Israel should be given the possibility of enlarging her territory in order to be able to absorb Russian Jews, when possible. "If Mr. Eden is anxious about the fate of Russian Jews he should cancel the Defence Treaty with Jordan and enable Israel to enlarge her borders. He cannot wave the stick on both sides, namely on one hand show his sympathy with Russian Jewry and on the other, strangle Israel". (Herut)

Jordan Invites "her British Ally".

Jordan's demand to invoke the Anglo-Jordan Treaty hints at a new development. It is silly to think that Jordan considers herself threatened by Israel, but it is still sillier not to believe that her demand to invoke the Treaty was done following preliminary consultations with Britain. Reviewing the various aspects of the questions and examining statements made by Arab leaders to the effect that no danger of a Second Round exists, Kol Haam states that the latest developments are "artificial". Following the failure of the Imperialists to mobilize Middle Eastern countries under an aggressive military command, "they plan to conquer the free states in the region". They hope to do that by encouraging border incidents in order, subsequently, to send forces to "calm the region and maintain peace".

The paper explains the demand to invoke the Anglo-Jordan Treaty along with the Tripartite Agreement, by pointing out the controversies between American and British policy in respect of the Middle East. This would give Britain a justification to dominate the Arab part of Palestine and obtain concessions from America. Besides, this step would prevent the formation of an anti-Hashemite and anti-British party in Jordan. Jordan hopes thus to give the impression that only Britain "is able to prevent a catastrophe". (Kol Haam correspondent on Arab Affairs)

2. "NO WAR PREPARATIONS IN BORDERS" - MAKLEFF

In an interview with the Tel-Aviv correspondent of the Times, Rav Aloof Makleff, the Israel Chief-of-Staff, stated that real anxiety prevailed in Israel in connection with the border situation. He added, however, that although the situation had deteriorated during the last four months "the deterioration was not of a military nature". There were no extraordinary movements of troops in the Israel-Jordan borders and the incidents were mainly carried out by armed Arab infiltrators, accompanied by members of the National Guard on one hand and by settlers, police units and Israel border units on the other. Rav Aloof Makleff stated that the absence of the Arab Legion or any other disciplined body from the border made infiltration possible.

Speaking on the borders, Makleff stated "that it is a bad border and it was irrationally fixed. It was not meant to last for a long time. "It is bad both for us and for Jordan and caused undue trouble to many Arab settlements". The population of these settlements were taken out of their lands and they therefore join the infiltrators.

Makleff admitted that since the agreement on cooperation between Israel and Jordan border patrols was cancelled, the former have changed their tactics; whenever infiltrators are sighted, they are pursued and fought by the Israel patrols.

More than £.1M. Damage

Makleff showed statistics proving that scope of damage caused by infiltration, amounting to more than £.1M. He stated that stolen property was openly on sale in Arab markets. He pointed to the unbearable tension to which settlements on the border were subjected, having to work during the day and keep watch at night.

Jordan Authorities - Partners to Crimes

Makleff added that the proofs about the participation of Jordan authorities in crimes committed by infiltrators and in sabotage activities, constitute another political factor in the border incidents. He expressed the opinion that "a sincere truce" and the resumption of the collaboration in the fight against infiltration would have considerably curtailed violations in the borders. According to him, factors for the situation were:

- a) The grotesque demarcation lines in the border.
- b) The existence of large groups of Arab refugees in the borders and,
- c) The irresponsibility of the National Guard, which, though armed, is not subjected to any real control and considers its aim to create tension rather than to prevent it.

Israel has no Aggressive Intentions

Makleff frankly discussed the question whether Israel has any aggressive intentions towards Jordan. He stated that it was unreasonable for Israel to have such intentions. There were no signs pointing to it and no aggressive atmosphere prevailed in the Army. At the same time, he stated that "there is no reason to assume that Israel border patrols are always adequately calm and cautious and that there are no cases where the Arabs consider themselves faced with hasty provocation". This state of affairs is regrettable, but it is not serious from a military point of view. Makleff stressed that the tension may easily grow worse unless a decisive action is taken to resume a certain amount of discipline along the borders and loyalty to the Armistice Agreements. (Maariv)

February 9th 1953.

Morning Papers.

1. FEAR FOR INCREASED ANTI-ISRAEL PRESSURE IN THE U.S.
(Gelblum from Washington)

There is room for fear that anti-Israel forces in the U.S.A. would be seriously strengthened and would intensify their pressure on the State Department. These circles argue that the time is now opportune to force Israel to accept solutions favourable to the Arabs - in respect of problems of refugees, internationalisation and even the borders - in order to secure a peace settlement in the Middle East. They point out that Israel and Zionism have become unpopular in Russia and her Satellites and therefore Israel has no choice but to accept what Washington will dictate. These circles remark that the friendship of the Arab States can thus be won.

Gelblum also refers to the recent appointment of Mrs. Claire Luce as U.S.A. Ambassador in Rome. He points out that Mrs. Luce has strong contacts with the Vatican. Her husband, Mr. Henry Luce, the publisher of "Time" and "Life" is known to be a "hater of Israel and of Zionism". Both are members of the anti-Israel Dorothy Thompson group, of which the President's brother, Mr. Milton Eisenhower, is also a member. (Haaretz)

2. ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER DISPUTES.

(a) The Near Eastern radio station in its Arabic broadcast, commented on recent events on the Israel-Jordan border, denouncing Israel's attitude. The commentator praised Nashishibi's statement that he hoped that the British demarche would ease the tension. (Haaretz)

(b) The "Nationalist Students Cell" of the Hebrew University (Herut group) published a statement protesting against the impotence of the Israel Government in its fight to prevent infiltration from Jordan. It says that the traces of infiltration did not "lead to the direction of the border, but to the Kirya." It states that past experience showed that "a policy of partition, concessions, compromise and calls for peace has not prevented war and would not prevent it in the future. Only by a combined effort to secure the

integrity of the homeland shall we secure peace and security." The statement writes that what is happening along the borders is not "incidents" but "war". The Statement concludes with the following question:- "How many sacrifices the Israel people will have to make until its leaders understand this truth?" (Herut)

(c) Herut's Editorial today denounces the Israel foreign policy "which caused the loss of every friend in the East and in the West". In view of the imminent political attack against Israel in the question of Jerusalem, this paper demands a fundamental change of the Israel foreign policy by removing those responsible "for our miserable foreign policy", and by adopting a dynamic and firm policy.

(d) Egypt Ambassador to Damascus, Ali Naguib, who had recently visited Qalqiliya on the Israel border, expressed the wish that "with the help of God, Qalqiliya road would lead the way to Tel-Aviv." (Haaretz)

Evening Papers.

1. CABINET HELD EMERGENCY MEETING THIS MORNING

In view of the tension which is prevailing in several points in the Israel-Jordan border, the Government, headed by Ben Gurion, held an emergency meeting in Jerusalem at noon today. The tension intensified in connection with the occupation of the Arab College in Jerusalem by several immigrant families from the Maabara in Talpiot (South of Jerusalem). Jordan warned Israel that it would open fire if the place was not vacated by 1 o'clock this afternoon. The Arab radio stations gave wide publicity to the report that Jordan Government had forwarded an ultimatum in writing, through Vigier, the U.N. Political Adviser.

U.N. sources in Jerusalem denied the report alleging that Vigier forwarded a Jordan ultimatum to Israel. Israel sources also denied the matter. Only Ramallah radio announced that Israel should vacate the Arab College by noon today. (Hador & Maariv)

A Stop Press Message states that the immigrants families who occupied last Saturday the Arab College, refused to leave the building. (Hador)

Syria-Jordan Meeting. The Arab broadcasting stations announced this morning that talks on the situation along the borders with Israel are now being conducted between Syria and Jordan. (Hador) In this connection Maariv adds that representatives of the Syrian Chief of Staff, which yesterday visited localities near the Jordan border, expressed the desire to extend aid to Jordan. A meeting of the Arab Chiefs of Staff was due to be held today to discuss details of the aid to be extended to Jordan in the event of armed clashes with Israel. (Maariv)

During the last 24 hours a state of preparedness was proclaimed in all the Arab armies until the question of the Arab College is clarified. One of the Arab stations (unnamed) stated that at the meeting of the Arab MACs, it was decided that Egypt should send to Jordan air force units, Iraq artillery units and Syria infantry units. There was no confirmation to this report and it is believed that the broadcast was mere propaganda.

2. DISPUTE WITH SYRIA

Israel representative at the MAC applied to U.N. observers demanding that the Arabs in Syria should suspend the ploughing of the lands near Kibbutz Tel Katzir. The fate of these lands is now being under discussion by the MAC. The Syrians began to plough the lands without permission a few days ago in order to produce a fait accompli. U.N. representatives arrived on the scene this morning. (Maariv)

THE JERUSALEM POST

Tuesday, February 10th, 1953.

After a lull of several days, infiltrators resumed their activities along the Jordan armistice line on Saturday and Sunday nights, the Army spokesman said in Tel Aviv yesterday. In the "Triangle" and Jerusalem Corridor areas seven cows, saplings and tools were stolen.

NEGEV MARAUDERS

TEL AVIV, Monday. — Two cows and a calf were stolen on Saturday from a settlement in the Negev; they were found the following day hidden among bushes in a wadi near the border. Police found the stolen animals while following the tracks of six men. While the cows were being taken back to the settlement three Arabs were observed in the vicinity. They were shot at, but fled over the lines.

On the same night two cows, valued at IL900, were stolen from a barn in the North. Traces of several men led towards the Jordan border.

Syrian Arabs Plough Kibbutz Land

TIBERIAS, Monday. — Arabs living on the Syrian side of the border near Tel Katzir started ploughing part of the kibbutz land this week.

Israel delegates to the Mixed Armistice Commission demanded that U.N. take steps to stop the ploughing. So far, U.N. observers' intervention has brought no results and the Arabs are still ploughing.

Farming at Latrun

RAMLE, Monday. — Either both Israel and Jordan farmers are permitted to work lands in the Latrun demilitarized area, or neither should be permitted to farm the lands, Israel is understood to have informed U.N. officers.

Settlers of Shalhevet Kibbutz, near the demilitarized zone, began farming the area on Sunday.

Approached by U.N. officials, an Israel representative pointed out that the Arabs had been tilling land in the zone for some time past without Israel consent. A complaint had been lodged with the M.A.C., but no reply had been received.

It is understood that the Israel delegate to the M.A.C. had pointed out to the U.N. official that regulations regarding the demilitarized zone should be made equally applicable to both sides, and that as long as Jordan's farmers worked in the area, Israel farmers should be allowed to continue there also.

Israel to Refer Arab Hostility to P.C.C.

UNITED NATIONS, Monday (INA). — Mr. Gideon Rafael is to take up the questions of increased Arab hostility against Israel and their continued blockade when the Palestine Conciliation Commission meets here this afternoon.

The matter will be raised when Mr. Rafael reports to the Commission on what the Israel Government has done to meet the payment on March 1 of the first instalment of the released Arab accounts. The progress report is the only item on the agenda of this first meeting of the P.C.C. this year. Israel offered at the last series of sessions to unfreeze Arab assets held in Israel.

Selwyn Lloyd 'Deplores Attacks on Villages'

LONDON, Monday (Reuter). — Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Selwyn Lloyd today told the Commons that he "deplored" the attacks on the Jordanian villages of Falama and Rantis by Israelis last month.

Mr. Lloyd was replying to a question referring to the supply of arms to any country in the Middle East. He said the Government should remind the Arab States that they have resisted the U.N. efforts to bring peace in the Middle East.

3 Marauders Killed

Three infiltrators were killed, one wounded and eight captured by defence forces and police between January 29 and February 5, an Army spokesman announced in Tel Aviv yesterday.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

4 MAR 1953

IN No.

175/11/29

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 227/53.

16th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier:
the "Augusta Victoria" Hospice (Kaiserin
Auguste Viktoria Stiftung).

Under the Israel/Jordan Armistice Agreement, the "Augusta Victoria" Hospital in the demilitarized zone on Mount Scopus may be occupied by no more than 150 Jordanians. Under the same Agreement, the Arab village of Isawiya is to remain unoccupied.

2. The Israelis are now claiming that well over 1,000 Jordanians are concentrated in the demilitarized zone - partly in the "Augusta Victoria" Hospital and partly in Isawiya village. The Government of Israel have lodged a strongly worded protest with the United Nations Truce Supervision Organisation, and have demanded that the Hospital and village mentioned be cleared immediately of Jordanians.

*When
exactly?*

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

JB

*Colby
26/3*

CS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper Summary of A. B. C. News File No. 175/11/29
Published at 12.30 Pm Date 3/3/53

A spokesman for the Israeli Army said in Jerusalem yesterday that an Israeli patrol killed at least six Arabs during a two hour fight with armed irregulars from Jordan last Saturday night. The spokesman said the Arabs had penetrated four miles into Israeli territory before the patrol challenged them. The spokesman also said that armed Arabs ambushed an Israeli army vehicle northeast of Beersheba but were driven off. One Arab was shot dead during the encounter. 2/3



CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2.

5/12/53.

18th February, 1953.

MEMO. No: 163/53.

MEMORANDUM for: The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T..

JORDAN - ISRAELI RELATIONS.

Cairo's memoranda No. 260 (4th February) and No. 334 (10th February, 1953) are concerned with this subject.

2. In the opinion of the Foreign Office, there is some justification for Jordan's protests over these skirmishes which appear to have official Israeli Government backing. On the other hand, the Foreign Office does not agree with the Israeli Government's charge that Jordan is deliberately provoking her; it is thought that Jordanian infiltration across the border is more or less in the nature of "private enterprise" although there may be grounds for the Israeli complaint that Jordan is doing little to prevent this illegal infiltration.

3. It is thought in the Foreign Office that the reasons behind this Israeli policy may be two-fold. In the first place, it may be that the Israelis are endeavouring to demonstrate to the West that Jordan has aggressive intentions, even war-like propensities, and that therefore, she should not be further supplied with arms and strategic materials; I understand the Israeli's chief complaint in this respect is that jet fighters, which are being sold by Britain to Israel, are also being supplied to the Arab States. The other possible reason is that Israel is out to win as many friends as she can by playing on their sympathies. She has had to fight hard and long for a national home for her people, Jews are still being persecuted, notably in Russia and the Satellites, and now here she has an unfriendly neighbour!

4. However, as far as the United Kingdom is concerned, this policy has misfired. As Cairo reported, on 31st January the Jordanian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs summoned the British Chargé d'Affaires, represented recent Israeli activities as being tantamount to aggression and called upon the British Government to support Jordan's protest to the Israeli Government and asked that in accordance with the terms of the 1948 Anglo-Jordan Treaty, the United Kingdom join Jordan in meeting this aggression.

5. As reported in our memorandum No. 109 of 6th February, on 4th February the British Chargé at Amman was instructed to reply in friendly fashion that whereas the United Kingdom still stood by this Treaty, she did not think that recent Israeli activities amounted to aggression of the scale envisaged by the Treaty and in fact, that these activities should not be rated higher than "border incidents". The United Kingdom would certainly lodge a protest with the Israeli Government but in the meantime the Jordanian Government would be well advised to take all possible steps to prevent any further illegal infiltration into Israel.

6. At the same time (4th February), the British Ambassador at Tel Aviv was instructed to lodge a strongly worded protest with the Israeli Government, laying the blame for these incidents squarely upon the Israelis and calling upon the two Governments to settle their differences amicably through the machinery already

CONFIDENTIAL

Memo. No. 163 - T. London.

established for this very purpose. Reports by the British Embassy at Tel Aviv have been forwarded to you in our memorandum No. 118 of 9th February.

7. The Foreign Office confirms Cairo's report that the Jordanians expressed themselves as being well satisfied with Britain's response but that the Israelis for their part took the British protest rather badly. As far as the Foreign Office is aware, no further incidents have occurred since this protest which was made on 5th February.

8. A copy of this memorandum has been forwarded to the Australian Legation, Cairo.



(D.J. Billington).

for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.



In reply quote No. 2/5/1.

Memo. No. 451

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO

20th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan-Israel Relations

1. It will be recalled that, following the appeal made by the Israeli Foreign Minister to the British, American and French Diplomatic representatives in Tel Aviv on 5th February that they should do what they could to cease the disturbed situation on the borders (see this Legation's memorandum No. 354/53 of 10th February), Israel made a further appeal to the Western nations on 13th February for material and diplomatic support following the breaking of diplomatic relations by Russia (see paragraph 2 of this Legation's memorandum No. 382/53 of 16th February).

2. In an attempt to offset these appeals, Diplomats from the seven Arab States are reported to have protested to the United States on 17th February against its giving "any more help of any sort" to Israel. Such support would endanger the security of the Middle East, according to the Diplomats.

3. The Israelis have not remained quiet while the Arab campaign against them has been mounting. On 11th February, Major-General Makleff, Chief of the Israel General Staff, commented on the statement made by Lt. General Glubb Pasha concerning the incidents (see paragraph 6 of this Legation's memorandum No. 405/53 of 17th February). General Makleff said that Glubb Pasha's category of innocent Arab infiltrators hardly existed any longer. He reaffirmed his earlier claim that the incidents had taken place with official Jordanian connivance (see this Legation's memorandum No. 359/53), stating that almost invariably infiltrators were organized as armed plundering bands. In any case, under the terms of the Armistice Agreement, the authorities of each country had accepted the responsibility for keeping their own nationals, including civilians, on their side of the border, and Israel desired only the performance by Jordan of that responsibility.

4. Copies of this memorandum are being forwarded to the Australian Embassy, Washington, the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York, the External Affairs Office, London, and the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

BJK:HMCC

175/11/29
I. 2487

Dated: 24th February, 1953.
1320

FROM:-

Rec'd: 25th February, 1953.
0830

Australian Legation,
TEL AVIV.

**ACTION
COPY**

42. CONFIDENTIAL.

Your telegram 2 Savings February 13th.

Deteriorating relations between Israel and Jordan including matters referred to in your Savingsgram 2 have all been the subject of a series of weekly memoranda for the past 2 months.

In particular see memorandum 191, pages 4 and 5. If additional information is required please advise.

Fuhrman.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (175/11/29) ←
MIN. & DEPT. DEFENCE
P.M's.

25th February, 1953.

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seen by the station*

[Handwritten signature]



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL. AVIV.

February 13th, 1953.

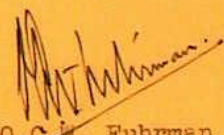
Memo No. 223/53

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier.

Recently the respective chiefs-of-Staff of the Israel Army and the Arab Legion gave interviews to local correspondents of the London "Times." Both spoke of the frontier tension between Israel and Jordan, from their individual viewpoints, and I have had reproduced and attach hereto, in convenient form for comparison, typed versions of what appeared in the "Times". I think these statements will be found very interesting.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

Enc 1
OCWF/MH.

Copy: U.A.
2/1/3

JB
4/3/53

TENSION ON THE ISRAELI/JORDAN FRONTIER
Press interviews given to correspondents of the London "Times" in Amman and Israel,
respectively, by Lt. Gen. J.B. Glubb, Chief-of-Staff of the Arab Legion and Ray-Aluf
Mordechai Makleff, Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli Armed Forces.

(London "Times" February 9, 1953).

Ray-Aluf Mordechai Makleff, Chief-of-Staff of the Israeli
Armed Forces:

Jerusalem, Israel
February 6th, 1953.

The border situation has grown much worse during the past four months, Ray-Aluf Makleff, Chief of the Israeli General Staff, told "The Times" correspondent in Tel Aviv. In an interview published today he said "the deterioration has not been of a military nature." Border clashes, which had developed alarmingly, had been, in the main, between armed Arab bands of marauders, accompanied in many cases by members of the National Guard - a volunteer frontier service raised in Jordan - and Israeli settlers police units, and border patrols.

There had been occasional engagements between groups of Israeli soldiers and men of the Arab Legion, but on the whole it was the absence of the Legion, or of any other disciplined force charged to keep order, which had made possible the organized and constant incursions of marauders and irregulars.

Bad for Both

"It is a bad, irrationally drawn frontier, never meant to last," Ray-Aluf Makleff declared. "It is bad for us and bad for Jordan, and involves unnecessary hardship for many of the settled Arab communities along the frontier whose villages are severed from their land, and who make common cause with the refugees. These Palestine Arabs have been left against the frontier with little to do but sink and form themselves into marauding bands, and have been encouraged in this by the authorities in the area, most of whom are Palestinians and feel no loyalty towards the Government in Amman."

The Chief-of-Staff produced charts showing a monthly average of 98 acts of banditry, involving heavy losses of cattle, irrigation pipes, electric wiring, and other equipment. Eight hundred head of cattle were stolen last year from frontier settlements and, according to information received in Jerusalem, had been sold openly in Hebron and Nablus. Stolen equipment was being sold as far away as Alexandria.

Official Convinence.

Ray-Aluf Makleff said there was evidence of official connivance, and even complicity, in well organized and heavily armed forays, and in such acts of sabotage as mining railway tracks and roads. This made it very difficult for the machinery of the Mixed Armistice Commission to work effectively.

The roots of the trouble were the grotesque nature of the frontier itself; the presence of large and discontented Arab refugee communities, and the responsibility of the Arabs' National Guard, which was not subject to proper control and which conceived its purpose as one of creating tension rather than of preventing it. Jordan, he asserted, had exploded mistakes in the armistice agreement to the limit.

Lt. Gen. J.B. Glubb, Chief-of-Staff of the Arab Legion:

Amman,
February 8th, 1953.

Lieutenant-General J.B. Glubb, Chief of General Staff of the Arab Legion, in a statement to your correspondent, replied to charges by Israelis that Arab infiltration into Israel was the cause of present tension on the frontier. "It is true that some Jordanians enter Israel illegally," he said. "Many of them do so, however, without any criminal intent. Israel has cut off Jordan from Gaza and Egypt, for example. There are still families which are divided between the two countries, and there is no legal means by which a Jordanian can reach his relatives in Gaza unless he is rich enough to pay for an air passage. He accordingly walks, crossing Israeli Territory by night."

"There are also many Arab families living in Israeli territory, particularly in Galilee, who have relatives in Jordan. There is no legal means by which they can see each other, so they walk across the border at night. Other infiltrators are refugees from Israel, who go back at night to see or to recover their property, or to pick the fruit of their own gardens. Some infiltrators go to Israel to steal. This, while deeply regrettable, is not to be wondered at, because one-third of the people now living in Jordan are destitute refugees."

Nearly all the people who infiltrated into Israel, he said, were refugees who lived formerly in the land now held by Israel and were driven from their homes by the Jews. Every possible measure had been taken by Jordan to prevent infiltration. Half the people in prison in west Jordan were there on charges of infiltrating into Israel. The Israel-Jordan border was as long as the distance from London to Cardiff. In a country with half a million vagrant refugees it was not possible to prevent individuals from crossing such a line during the night.

Police Cooperation

Jordan has been unable to persuade Israel to cooperate. General Glubb said that an example of this uncooperative Israeli attitude of which was an example last month of the system of cooperation between local police officers which had been in force for a year, and that she was now complaining of the deterioration of the frontier situation since that system ended although she had herself been found guilty by the mixed armistice commission of three most serious breaches committed on Jordan soil (two of them against the same village) by her regular forces.

Israel, he said, preferred that cases of infiltrations should be dealt with through the United Nations, where she could make political capital out of them. It was hopeless to deal with petty thieving and passport offences through diplomatic channels. The Israelis refused to cooperate with the Jordanians to prevent crimes on the frontier. Every now and then their regular army crossed the border and launched a set-piece attack on some Arab village occupied by a few poor





1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

In reply quote No.

CONFIDENTIAL

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No. 222/53.

February 13th, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

25 FEB 1953

175/11/29

CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier

1. Will you please refer to paragraph 4 of my Memorandum No. 212/53 of February 10th, 1953 - sent by this Bag.
2. I have now received privately from sources in Amman a copy of the Note handed to the Assistant Chief-of-Staff of the United Nations Truce observers in Jerusalem on February 9th, 1953 by Azmi Nashashibi, the chief Jordan delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission.
3. My information, which comes from the British Ambassador to the Jordan, Geoffrey W. Furlonge, Esquire, C.M.G., O.B.E., is that this Note was concocted by the Jordan Minister of Defence, Anwar Nuseibeh; Lieut.-General J.E. Glubb, Chief of General Staff to the Arab Legion and Azmi Nashashibi, the chief Jordan delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission, and that the Note had not been before the Jordan Cabinet nor had it obtained the approval of the Jordan Prime Minister - Tewfik Abul Huda.

Copy VN

R-13

CS

GB
18/5/53

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

Enc. 1

Text of a Note handed to the assistant Chief-of-Staff
of the United Nations Truce Observers in Jerusalem on
February 9th, 1953 by Azmi Nashashibi, the Chief Jordan
Delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

"My Government views with great concern the occupation
of the Arab college buildings in the demilitarized zone,
under United Nations trusteeship, by the Israelis on
February 7. The Jordan Government considers this new
aggressive act by Israelis a flagrant violation of the
status quo, the maintenance of which has been guaranteed
by the tripartite declaration of 1950. The Jordan Govern-
ment further considers the occupation as a violation of the
general armistice agreement.

"The Jordan Government also maintains that the occupa-
tion of the Arab college, in the Government House area, by
Israelis is an aggressive act against the Jordan Kingdom
itself, an act which embodies a direct threat to Jordan's
communications.

PROTECTING RIGHTS

"I have been ordered by my Government to inform you
that it will not tolerate continuation of such violent
aggression. I have further been ordered by my Government
to request you to furnish me with the steps you intend to
take within 24 hours to restore the condition of the Arab
college buildings in your area to what it was before the
occupation. Should no satisfactory action be taken as
asked for above, my Government will then be at liberty to
take such steps as it deems necessary to protect Jordan
rights and interests in this respect."



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 210/53.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

10th February, 1953.



MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier:
derailment, by explosion, of a Haifa/Lyddah
bound Israel train on the night of 2nd
February, 1953.

Will you please see my memorandum no. 191/53 dated
February 4th, 1953.

MAC's Censure

Jordan was censured for mining the Israel railway and Israel for firing on Kalkilya village at an emergency session of the Israel-Jordan M.A.C. which was held in Jerusalem yesterday.

An Army spokesman announced last night that the Commission had condemned Jordan for the incident on the night of February 2 when two Jordanians placed high explosives under the railway lines in Israeli territory which resulted in the subsequent damage of a goods train. The M.A.C. called for the prevention by Jordan authorities of similar incidents in the future which are liable to worsen the border situation.

Israel was censured by the Commission after the discussion on the Jordan complaint that fire had been opened on Kalkilya, in the vicinity of the railway explosion on the same night. The Israel complaint that the Jordanians had fired on Kibbutz Nir Eliahu from Kalkilya, was struck off the agenda after the chairman, General B. de Ridder, had announced that the proof submitted had not convinced him.

Israel was represented by Rav-Seren S. Nutov and Seren Goldstein. The Jordan delegates were Major Yitzhak and Lieutenant Nazif.

2. The attached newscutting appeared in the "Jerusalem Post" on February 8th, 1953 and the substance of this news-item was reproduced in almost identical terms in the Hebrew press on the same day.

3. The Jordan version of the finding by the Mixed Armistice Commission was that, as regards the derailment of the Haifa/Lyddah bound Israel train on the night of February 2nd, the Commission found that "the train was derailed as a consequence of an explosion organised and committed by persons unknown." Paragraph 3 of the attached finding was agreed by Jordan.

4. The proceedings of meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission and the findings of the Commission on the various incidents and complaints into which it enquires are not available to members of the Diplomatic Corps in Israel; indeed, the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs frowns on any contact between members of the Diplomatic Corps and those of the M.A.C. But, with the passage of time, we usually learn the truth of border clashes and frontier clashes - as I expect we shall in connection with this derailment affair.

CS
Copy to
P.D.

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 212/53.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

25 FEB 1953

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

10th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier.

Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier has not abated since I wrote and sent forward by last bag (ex-Israel February 6th, 1953) a Ministerial Despatch and several memoranda on the subject: if anything, the situation has worsened. Translations of excerpts from the Israel press are attached and these, I think, confirm this view.

2. To the casual reader of newspapers in Israel, the attached news-item, which appeared in the "Jerusalem Post" and in the Hebrew press on February 8th, 1953, meant very little - it was merely another of those "Arab lies" calculated to keep tension on the frontier at fever-heat and to suitably impress the signatories to the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 that the Jews continue to be the aggressors in the border war between Jordan and Israel.

**Arab College Occupied
In J'lem, Radio Claims**

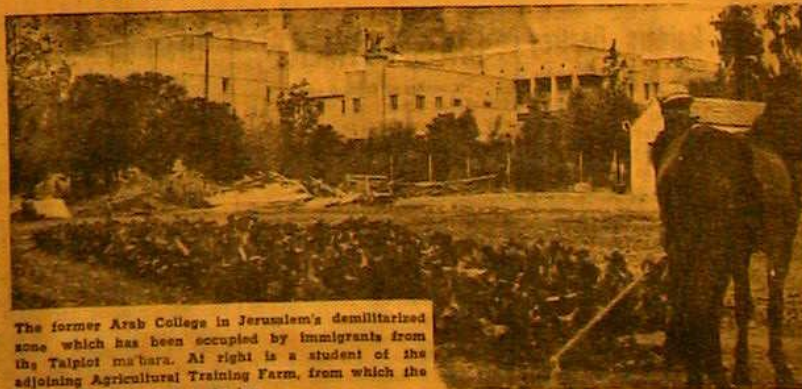
Radio Ramallah announced yesterday that 50 Jewish families occupied the Arab College building in no-man's-land in Jerusalem yesterday.

The act was an open breach of the armistice agreement, as the building was in the demilitarized zone in which the status quo had to be retained, the Radio claimed. The U.N. Truce Supervision Organization contacted the Israel Police and had demanded the immediate evacuation of the building, the announcement concluded.

3. The incident complained of by Jordan was, in fact, true and later took a very serious turn. It appears that, on February 7th and following a violent tropical storm on February 5th, a number of Jewish immigrant families, estimated at 50, moved out from a tented ma'bara (work camp) near Talpiyot, an area on the outskirts of Israel Jerusalem, crossed the frontier into the demilitarized zone and established themselves in some

buildings which were formerly known and used as the Government Arab College. Those buildings are shown in the attached press reproduction of a photograph.

COLLEGE BUILDING SHELTERS IMMIGRANTS



The former Arab College in Jerusalem's demilitarized zone which has been occupied by immigrants from the Talpiot ma'bara. At right is a student of the adjoining Agricultural Training Farm, from which the photograph was taken yesterday.

4. At 2.15 p.m. on February 8th, I listened to the wireless news broadcast by the Hashemite Broadcasting Service from Jerusalem (the Old City - Jordan). The announcer stated that, an hour or so earlier, Azmi Nashashibi, the senior Jordan Delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission, had visited M.A.C. headquarters at Government House in the demilitarized zone and had handed a written ultimatum to M. Henri Vigier, the United Nations Political Officer on the Truce Supervision Organisation, to the effect that, unless these Jewish families were evacuated from the Government Arab College within 24 hours, Jordan would take "the necessary steps to protect its interests and rights in the zone." The letter, which was read by the Jordan announcer, began thus: "I have to inform you of my being ordered....." Here and there throughout the communication the words "I am ordered" occurred. The gist of the letter said to have been handed to Vigier was that Jordan "considers this (the 'squatting' by Jewish families in the Government Arab College in no-mans land) a new aggressive act by the Israelis and a flagrant violation of the status quo in the zone guaranteed by the Tripartite Declaration of 1950. The Jordan Government maintains that the occupation of the Arab College is an aggressive act against Jordan which constitutes a direct threat to Jordan communications. The Jordan Government will not tolerate the continuation of such flagrant aggression." As I remarked earlier, the Note ended with the phrase "unless the evacuation of these families is completed by 1 p.m. on February 9th, Jordan will take the necessary steps to protect its interests and rights in the zone."

5. I wondered whether my British colleague, Sir Francis Evans, had also heard this broadcast but I could neither contact the Ambassador nor any of his Service Attachés - it being Sunday and everyone appeared to be out. Finally, however, I ran the First Secretary of the British Embassy to earth. He had not heard of this matter, but promised to inform his Ambassador. Later that night, and I speak of February 8th, Sir Francis Evans saw me and said that, at about 9 p.m., he had seen the Director-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Walter Eytan, and the Director of the British Commonwealth Division of that Ministry, Michael Comay, who had both returned to Tel Aviv from Jerusalem an hour or so earlier. Both denied any knowledge of the incident - either the act of "squatting" by the Jewish families or the "ultimatum".

6. Here I must revert to the publicity given this matter by radio services, other than the Hashemite Service in the Old City (Jordan), and by the Arab press. The Near East Broadcasting Service (British controlled - Cyprus) said, in its 5.30 p.m. news-bulletin on February 8th, and apropos of the "squatting" business, that two senior delegates of the Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, Colonel Ghassan Shadid and Colonel Tewfik Shatilah, had arrived in the Old City and toured the Armistice line with "a view to offering possible military help." The announcement went on to say that, "following preliminary negotiations with Amman, Cairo, Damascus and Baghdad full assurances had been given that military aid would be forthcoming at the first request." Ramallah Radio (Jordan) reported that Israel had refused the demands of the United Nations to evacuate the building. All the Jordan newspapers, which headlined the "squatters invasion," called the incident the "greatest open flagrant violation of the Armistice Agreement" yet perpetrated by Israel. "Falastin," an

Old City daily, said that the Jordan Cabinet had met in extraordinary session to consider what steps should be taken to meet this new crisis. This newspaper, "Falastin", said editorially that Jordan should react to the Arab College invasion by moving Arab refugees into the Hebrew University buildings on Mount Scopus which is also in the demilitarized zone. Elsewhere, in Israel, it was reported that a Lieut-Colonel McAninch, Chief Assistant to the United Nations Chief-of-Staff - General William Riley, had met the "squatters" and urged them to return to the Talpiyot ma'bara but they refused to do so. Police headquarters in Jerusalem (Israel) denied Jordan reports that the Truce Supervision Organisation had contacted the Israel police with a request to evacuate the immigrants.

7. On February 10th, the Israel Cabinet met in extraordinary session, for the second time within a week, to discuss the Israel/Jordan frontier tension, and, although no press communiqué was issued as is customary after these occasions, it is generally assumed that a decision was taken on the Jordan protest about the occupation of the Arab College, for, late that evening, the 10th, a Foreign Office spokesman announced that:

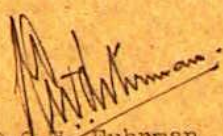
"The Government of Israel has agreed to comply with the request of the United Nations representatives and to undertake the evacuation of the Arab College building situated in no-man's-land which has been occupied by Israel citizens who had taken shelter there."

This Foreign Office official added that "the Government of Israel had taken this decision in consideration of its responsibilities under the Armistice Agreement and without any coercion being exercised whatever." He denied that the Government of Israel had any knowledge of a so-called "ultimatum", and said that the arrangement was one purely between the Government and the representatives of the United Nations. The evacuation of the "squatters" is to be carried out within a week.

8. Elsewhere on the Israel/Jordan frontier, "incidents" are a daily occurrence. On February 9th, 1953, the Arab News Agency reported that Israelis had begun to plough the Latrun no-man's-land under the protecting guns of two tanks. The Arab Legion threatened to open fire by noon unless the men withdrew, which they did following the intervention of United Nations Observers. A meeting of a Mixed Armistice Commission subcommittee was arranged on the spot.

9. "Falastin", the Old City daily, reported that, on February 7th, 1953, Israel planes were seen over Nablus. A protest was lodged with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

10. "A-Diffa", another Old City daily, reported on February 9th, that an espionage net operating in Israeli interests was discovered in Nablus recently and a number of suspects were arrested. The investigations are being conducted secretly. Last week, the Jordan High Court, sitting in Nablus, sentenced two Palestine Arabs to life imprisonment on the same charge.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



20 FEB 1953

P.O. Box 273

In reply quote No. 2/5/1

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

Memo. No. 354/53

13th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan-Israel Relations

1. Reference is made to paragraph 12 of this Legation's memorandum No. 334/53 of 10th February concerning the ultimatum issued by the Jordanian Government on 8th February for the immediate evacuation of Jewish families squatting in the former Arab Teachers Training College buildings in the demilitarised area of Mount Scopus, and the Jordanian announcement the following day that Israel had agreed to the evacuation.
2. On 10th February, it was officially confirmed in Amman that the Israeli authorities had asked Jordan for "a few days" in which to carry out the evacuation. The Israeli decision to comply with the request of the United Nations Observers' Corps to "undertake evacuation of Israeli citizens" from the zone was taken at an emergency Cabinet meeting in Jerusalem on 9th February. When the Israeli decision was transmitted to the Jordanian Government by United Nations representatives, the Jordanian Cabinet immediately approved of the request for further time.
3. While acceding to the Jordanian ultimatum, however, the Israeli Government did not withdraw from the attitude it had adopted previously, namely that the recent incidents were the result of the Jordanian "soft policy" of allowing "the menace of infiltration" to continue (see paragraph 6(b) of the above-mentioned memorandum). An Israeli Army spokesman stated at the time of the Israeli reply to Jordan's ultimatum that "after a brief period, a few days quiet, infiltration was resumed the past two nights all along the Jerusalem armistice line. In the central area and the Jerusalem corridor, livestock, saplings and farm tools were stolen by marauders." Israeli Police tracked the cattle rustlers, but they escaped across the border.
4. This statement is along the same lines as one made by the Chief of the Israel General Staff, Major-General Makleff, to a correspondent of the London "Times" on about 5th February. Major-General Makleff declared that although the situation had worsened during the past four months, "the deterioration had not been of a military nature". Border clashes, which had developed alarmingly, had in the main been between armed Arab bands of marauders, accompanied in many cases by members of the Home Guard, and Israeli settlers, police units and border patrols. There had been occasional engagements between Israeli soldiers and the Arab Legion, but on the whole it was the absence of the Legion or of any other disciplined force charged to keep order, which had made possible the organised and constant incursions of marauders and irregulars.
5. General Makleff claimed that there was evidence of official Jordanian connivance, and even complicity, in well-organised and heavily armed forays and in such acts of sabotage as mining railway tracks and roads. This made it very difficult for the machinery of the Mixed Armistice Commission to work effectively. The roots of the trouble, according to the General, were in the

/2...

fact that the frontier was "a bad, irrationally drawn frontier, ever meant to last". This frontier involved unnecessary hardship for many of the Arab communities along the frontier whose villages were severed from their lands, and who therefore made common cause with the refugees. "These Palestine Arabs have been left against the frontier with little to do but sulk and form themselves into marauding bands, and have been encouraged in this by the authorities in the area, most of whom are Palestinians and feel no loyalty towards the Government in Amman."

6. One can sympathise with General Makleff's views, and agree with him that many incidents which have taken place may have been inspired by disgruntled refugees living near the fantastically formed frontier. However, it does appear that in the case of the present series of incidents, it is the Israelis who must be blamed. It seems hardly likely that the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee and the United Kingdom could separately have been hood-winked in this respect by Jordanian authorities.

7. In Jordan itself resistance to the incidents shows signs of stiffening. On 11th February Deputies from Nablus and other dignitaries of that city petitioned the Government to order the Arab Legion to "take an active part in repelling attacks along the Jordan-Israel Armistice line, which are carried out by Israel Army units". The Deputies and dignitaries also demanded that an emergency session of Parliament should be held to discuss the situation. At present, it is Home Guard units which are responsible for law and order along the armistice line; military authorities in Jordan are said to consider that the Home Guard needs re-organization and better training.

8. The Arab solidarity which the series of incidents seems to have strengthened continues to grow. The senior Syrian delegate to the joint Syria-Israel Armistice Committee, Lt. Col. Ghassan Shedid, told a press conference in Jerusalem on 10th February that Colonel Shishakly, Syrian Deputy Premier and Chief of Staff, was seriously concerned with the events taking place between Jordan and Israel. He had therefore commissioned Shedid to gain first-hand knowledge of the situation (see paragraph 16 of the above-mentioned memorandum) and to express the Syrian point of view to the United Nations authorities. Lt. Col. Shedid claimed that it was Syria's duty to be among the first alerted when incidents occurred in Jordan, since Syrians were no less willing to sacrifice themselves for Jordan than for their own country.

9. Copies of this memorandum are being forwarded to the Australian Embassy, Washington, the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York, the External Affairs Office, London, and the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

[Signature]

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

ISRAEL BORDER
STRIFE"AN ARTIFICIAL
BARRIER"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—I should be grateful if you could allow me space in your columns to reply to the letter of the Israel Ambassador published to-day under the headings: Israel Border Strife, "Purely a One-Way Invasion." The Israel Ambassador attempts to account for the two recent incidents in which Jordan villages were involved by inferring that they were occasioned by the accidental crossing of the frontier by forces in pursuit of armed bands. This is a most improbable story unless it is a fact that the Israel Army commonly chases marauders with Piat bombs and bangalore torpedoes (weapons normally used for the destruction of strong-points and wire defences).

The Israel Ambassador considerably over-emphasizes the significance of infiltration from Jordan into Israel. Israel has imposed an artificial barrier separating one Arab area from another—for example, Gaza, Jordan, and Galilee. Many families are still split between these areas. The only way for a Jordanian to travel from one of these areas to another, whether socially or on business (unless he is a rich man and can fly by aeroplane), is to "infiltrate" across Israel. Again, in many places the armistice line divides a house from its garden. In the village of Qatunna this is the case. If a man leaves his back door to pick an apple in his garden he is an "infiltrator."

The town of Qalqilya, which is on the coastal plain, lived until 1949 on its orange groves. The armistice line gave all the houses to Jordan and every orange tree to Israel. Thus the people of Qalqilya were not classified as refugees for relief purposes because they still lived at home, yet their livelihood had gone. In the orange-picking season, rather than starve, some of them took sacks and went over at night and picked oranges. The Israel army laid ambushes in the gardens and killed many of them.

The "armed and marauding bands" are a figment of the Israel imagination. The incidents of robbery and violence of the type which their Ambassador lists are and have been everyday occurrences in the Republic of Israel since its foundation, as references to Press reports from time to time will show. The Jordanians should not automatically be held responsible for them without reasons being fairly stated. Jordan has made great efforts to end infiltration but believes it to be a police and social problem, and not a matter for armies. General Riley, the chief United Nations representative, recently supported this view at the 517th meeting of the Security Council.

Jordan recommends that Jordanian and Israel police officers be connected by direct telephone across the border in order that information of thefts be notified in time for the thief or thieves to be intercepted by the other side, since it is not possible to trace such crimes if information is received days, and often weeks, later. However, though the Israelis occasionally agree to cooperate in this way for a short time, after a few months they unaccountably denounce cooperation and send military punitive expeditions to attack Jordan villages.

Thus the suggestion that a meeting should take place between commanders on either side in order to reduce tension appears rather sinister, coming as it does from the side which by its recent acts of military aggression has deliberately created the situation which it now professes to deplore. In politics brutality eventually exacts its own price. The nuisance of infiltration is the price the Israelis are paying for the inhumanity with which they liquidated the Arab residents in their fatherland.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

F. MULKI, Jordan Ambassador,
Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of
the Jordan, 6, Upper Phillimore
Gardens, W.8, Feb. 18.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

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Date

ISRAEL BORDER STRIFE

"PURELY A ONE-WAY INVASION"

TO THE EDITOR OF THE TIMES

Sir,—The recent incidents on the Israel-Jordan frontier, which have received attention in your columns, can be understood only in the general context of the problem of infiltration and marauding.

The border consists of 330 miles of armistice demarcation line, traversing desert and rugged hill country, which cannot be physically sealed off. Every month there are hundreds of cases of illegal crossings into Israel, largely by armed marauding bands, most of them based on villages just across the line, to which they duck back with their booty. It should be emphasized that this is purely a one-way invasion, and that there is no infiltration by Israelis into Arab countries. The direct loss of life and property and the general lawlessness and tension which result in Israel's border areas constitute a major problem.

During 1952 alone, marauders from Jordan accounted for 13 individual murders, for 101 Israelis killed or wounded in encounters with armed bands, and for 986 reported cases of serious theft—the property stolen being valued at just under one million Israel pounds. This property is being freely and publicly sold on Jordan markets, though it is most conspicuous and easily identifiable—e.g., hundreds of pedigree cattle and quantities of irrigation pipes. The situation has recently been aggravated by guerrilla actions against road and rail traffic, especially in the central "waist" where Israel is only nine miles wide. The latest incidents bear all the marks of military organization—for example, the blowing-up of a train near Kalkilia on February 2. Israel's defence measures against this organized banditry result in frequent running fights at night, when it is impossible to ensure that pursuit is broken off abruptly when the border is reached. This accounts for two recent incidents in which Jordan border villages were involved.

Under the armistice agreements each side is responsible for preventing its own civilians from illegally crossing the line. The almost negligible scale of raiding from across the equally exposed Lebanese and Syrian borders shows that the problem can be brought under effective control when the Arab Government concerned takes appropriate action. The Jordan authorities themselves have, at various periods in the past, cooperated in measures to combat marauding, punish offenders, and return stolen livestock and property. Unfortunately, they are not at present cooperating in this way, and there is evidence that the Jordan National Guard of armed villagers, as well as certain individuals in official positions, are themselves implicated.

The Government of Israel has suggested a meeting between high-ranking commanders on either side in a renewed effort to reduce tension, while ensuring the security of life and property and the safety of movement in Israel. We respectfully submit that the question is less one of "counselling moderation on the part of Jordan" than of Jordan's keeping its inhabitants out of Israel.

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
E. ELATH, Ambassador Extraordinary
and Plenipotentiary,
Embassy of Israel, 18, Manchester Square,
W.1.



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3-

Memo No. 195/53.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

5th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The relations between Israel and Jordan.

The attached should be read as complementary
to my:

Ministerial Despatch no. 5/53 dated February 2nd, 1953;
Memorandum no. 130/53 dated January 23rd, 1953;
Memorandum no. 181/53 dated February 2nd, 1953;

and

Memorandum no. 191/53 of February 4th, 1953.

2. These translations of excerpts from the Hebrew press were prepared by the Information Section of the British Embassy, Israel. The views expressed in these excerpts are, of course, for internal consumption in Israel - written, mostly to a Government brief, by Israeli journalists whose objective is to "state a case for Israel." Much of what appears in the attached must, therefore, be taken cum grano salis.

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

CS
JP
R/Haffner
ps
W24/2. Copy: I.N.

ISRAELI/JORDANIAN RELATIONS

Translations of excerpts from the Hebrew Press

February 4th, 1953.

Morning papers:

Under the Government prescribed caption of "Israel-Jordan Border Tension Increasing", all the Hebrew press gave details of the "blowing-up" of the Israel train near Qalquilya.

The leading articles of Haaretz, Davar, Hazofe and Herut are devoted today to this subject.

This incident has greatly intensified the tension along the borders. These acts of provocation against Israel have been on the increase since the appointment of Nuseibeh as Jordan Minister of Defence and Nashashibi as Senior Jordan delegate to the M.A.C. Both are known to be Palestinian extremists.

It is pointed out that the Arab Legion distributed arms in large quantities to villages along the border; the National Guard was thus unable to control the villagers who are using the arms as they think fit.

Another cause for the tension is the maintenance of refugee camps along the border. Jordan authorities are encouraging infiltration by not punishing the returning infiltrators. Reliable Israel circles defined this state of affairs as "unbearable situation". The inhabitants of the frontier settlements are in a state of constant tension when they have to devote several hours during the night to guard against infiltrators and robbers. Jordan could prevent this tension by removing the refugees from the border and punishing the infiltrators.

The present tension is the result of a situation produced by the Palestinians in the Jordan Government who are hoping that by continuing to harass Israel, they would succeed in undermining the morale of this country which is fighting her economic difficulties.

On the other hand, Israel has continuously warned Jordan through all possible channels that the continuation of this state of affairs must be brought to an end by Jordan in pursuance with The Rhodes Agreement, or else the Jordan Government would bear the responsibility for the grave results of its behaviour. (H. Canaan, Haaretz Military Correspondent).

Davar Political Correspondent on the Subject: This correspondent writes that the Israel Government believes that the solution towards the easing of the tension is in the hands of the Jordan Government. He also writes on the same line as Haaretz correspondent on the question of infiltration. Jordan's application to Britain to invoke their mutual Treaty has caused astonishment since it means that Jordan is requesting British help to continue the activities of the infiltrators. At this stage, Israel will not adopt any active stand on this application by Jordan. On the other hand the Israel Government would regard it as a complete violation of the Armistice Agreement should the Amman Government consent to admit Iraqi soldiers along the Israel-Jordan border.

..2..

Israel circles emphasise the fact that infiltration on such a large scale could not be embarked upon without the consent of the Jordan soldiers and the Jordan Government. In contrast, the situation along the Syrian and Lebanon border is illustrated, where no cases of infiltration occurred because these two Arab Governments did not permit such activities.

The Israel Army must fight such incursions by infiltrators which are causing damage to lives and property. When clashes take place, it is difficult to ask Israel soldiers to conduct their defence activities in accordance with the plans of the Jordan aggressors.

This correspondent concludes that there is no clear report regarding the steps taken by the Israel Government in the international arena, but it is clear that Britain and the U.S. which had been approached by Jordan, have at their disposal details of the actual situation along the borders as clarified at the meeting held between Sharett and the Ambassadors of Britain and the U.S. in Israel (Davar).

Jordan Requests U.S. Intervention (INA - Washington). The Jordan Minister in Washington told INA correspondent yesterday that he had applied to the State Department requesting action to be taken in connection with the aggressive acts of the Israel Army against Jordan in pursuance of the tripartite declaration of the Western Powers in 1950. He said that the State Department had not yet replied to his application. (Several of the Newspapers).

The British Government spokesman hinted yesterday, that unofficial talks were being conducted by Jordan and Britain in connection with the former's request to invoke the Anglo-Jordan Treaty. (Goldschmidt in Haboker).

Herut Editorial demands the expulsion once and for all of the Jordan aggressors from Israel soil. Referring to the British-Jordan Treaty, the paper remarks "the memory of the British is still quite fresh in order not to be involved in a new war with the daring and trained Israel youth".

Special Cabinet and Knesset Meeting today: A special meeting of the Cabinet with Ben Gurion's participation was convened for 10 o'clock this morning. Government circles report that the meeting will discuss the "latest events". (Haboker).

Herut representatives at the Knesset submitted an urgent proposal to discuss "affairs concerning the security of the State", following the recent attack on the train near the border. The question will be discussed by the Knesset this morning. (Herut).

February 4th, 1953.

Evening papers:

At the Knesset (Parliament) this morning Sharett, on behalf of the Government, announced that the Government was vigilant in matters concerning the security of the border zone and was taking the necessary measures, but he refused to disclose any details. He added that it was in the interest of the public to refer the subject for discussion to the Knesset Committee for External Affairs and Security. Sharett stated that the Cabinet held a special meeting this morning, convened by the Prime Minister. The situation along the borders in view of recent incidents and especially the attack on the train near Qalqiliya, was discussed. At Sharett's proposal, the Knesset decided by a majority vote to refer the matter to that Committee.

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The discussion on this question began following a question put by Herut Knesset member, H. Landau.

The Cabinet meeting this morning lasted 3 hours and it was finally decided that Sharett would make a statement on behalf of the Government.

The passenger train between Tel Aviv and Haifa operated today as usual.

Damascus radio broadcast this morning that Israel tanks were stationed all along the Jordan border and that the Arab Legion received re-enforcement. It is also stated that General de Ridder left for Amman this morning to confer with the Jordan Minister of Defence on the present dangerous situation along the border. (Maariv).

Damascus radio also claims that Israel 'planes are continually flying over Arab territory for reconnaissance and that the Jordan delegation at the M.A.C. submitted a protest. (Yediot).

Israel diplomatic representatives abroad are maintaining "routine contacts" with the respective Governments to which they are accredited, to explain recent events along the Israel-Jordan border. The Foreign Ministry also maintains contact with the diplomatic representatives in Israel to explain matters relating to the border incidents. (Hador).

Maariv political correspondent referring to the subject repeats the arguments advanced this morning by the political and military correspondents of Haaretz, Davar. He also believes that the tension was aggravated since the appointment of the Palestinian extremists. He writes that only a strong hand would promptly bring about quiet along the border. This correspondent states that when the agreement to prevent infiltration was revoked by Jordan, the Military Attachés(?) received information of the situation.

Sharett explained the damage caused by infiltration to the British and the American Ambassadors in Israel and "it seems that the Powers understood that Israel should take firm measures to wipe out this affliction." (Maariv).

February 5th, 1953.

Morning papers:

Cabinet Discussed Violence along Border: Haim Landau (Herut) who introduced the debate by way of motion, accused the Government of neglect in the field of security. There was also neglect in respect of foreign policy. He contended that this political neglect caused an increase in the impudent acts of violence along the border. In the absence of an appropriate reaction by Israel, Jordan did not hesitate to attempt at sabotaging one of the main lines of communications. "If no suitable counter action was taken, the impudence of the attackers would be strengthened." He said that the days of "routine reaction" had gone and that it was time to fight for the integrity of the homeland mainly through political means. Landau charged the Government with leading this country into political isolation.

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He stressed that it was possible to liberate territories of Israel without bloodshed "anyhow without so many sacrifices in life and property as had been inflicted by continuous Arab attacks. The sole real guarantee for the security of the State is the liberation of the entire homeland." (Haaretz)

Arab Collective Defence Pact against Israel: The Arab press in the Old City on February 4th demanded that the Jordan Government should ask the Arab League to invoke the Arab Collective Defence Pact in relation to recent events along the Israel border. (Under this Agreement, which was ratified by the seven Arab members of the League, should one of the countries of the League be attacked, the remaining countries should give assistance). (Haaretz)

Israel 'planes over Arab village: Ramallah radio reported that yesterday (February 4th) at noon an Israel 'plane circled over Falema. Two hours later, 12 Israel 'planes flew over the demarcation lines near Tulkarem. (Haaretz)

The "Times" correspondent in Amman, quoting an Arab Legion spokesman, estimated the Israel forces which attacked Falema on 29th January, at 600 to 1,000 persons. The Chief of the Arab village was amongst the persons killed. (INA from London, Haaretz)

N.E. The Foreign Office statement that urgent attention was being given to the Jordan request relating to the 1948 Anglo-Jordan Treaty, is published in all the Hebrew press.

Evening papers:

Western Powers Ambassadors invited to see Sharett: This morning (February 5th) Sharett invited the diplomatic representatives of Britain, U.S.A., and France to draw their attention to the situation along the Israel-Jordan border. Sharett pointed out that Jordan was encouraging acts of infiltration and sabotage. (Maariv)

Foreign Office Spokesman on Jordan's application to Britain: The Foreign Office spokesman made his second announcement within the last seven days in connection with the Israel-Jordan border dispute. He said that there was no ground for the fears expressed by "certain Israel officials" alleging that Britain was encouraging Jordan to adopt an attitude hostile to Israel. He added that the British Government regards itself bound to the tripartite declaration of May 1950, guaranteeing the status quo of the borders between Israel and the Arab States. (Maariv & Hador)

Yediot's diplomatic correspondent referring to the statement of the Foreign Office spokesman, published this morning, that "urgent attention was being given to the Jordan request", remarks that it seems that its aim is to conceal the embarrassment of the British Government in view of the repeated requests by Amman Government. The correspondent writes that Britain could get out of it by referring to Clause IV, under which Jordan could seek aid from Britain only if the dispute could not be settled through usual channels, including U.N.

Political circles believe, according to this correspondent, that the Jordan Government applied to London in order to calm the Jordan population. (Yediot)

....5...

U.S.A. Warns Jordan and Israel: The State Department intervened in the border dispute between Israel and Jordan. Henry Byroade, summoned the diplomatic representatives of Israel and Jordan in Washington and expressed "the concern of the U.S.A. Government in view of the recent increasing tension between the two countries."

The Israel representative explained the situation to Byroade and told him about the "scourge of infiltration and the Jordan refusal to cooperate in the implementation of the Armistice Agreement."

According to an INA despatch from Washington, officials of the State Department stressed that the U.S.A. would not tolerate war in the Middle East. "The State Department is closely following any eventuality likely to lead towards a serious dispute between Israel and Jordan." (Maariv & Hador)

The "New York Times" correspondent stated this morning that Britain as well as the U.S.A. is not interested in a new Israel-Arab dispute.

The friendly relations between Britain and Israel make it incumbent upon Britain to use her influence particularly to calm the tempers.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

Memo no. 191/53.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

18 FEB 1953

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

4th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The strained relations between Israel and Jordan; another serious incident opposite the "Little Triangle" - map reference: 32° 10' N x 34° 50' E.

Note: In this memorandum two villages are mentioned: Qalqilya and Falama. These places are variously spelt "Kalkilya" and "Falama"; or Qalqilia and Falameh. Herein I have maintained the Arabic spelling: Qalqilya and Falama.

WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 4, 1953

Jordan Saboteurs Blow Up Israel Train at Border

A goods train was derailed two kilometres north of Kalkilya on Monday night as the result of a carefully planned operation by Jordan saboteurs who blew up a section of the permanent way opposite Falama village.

The Army spokesman stated in Tel Aviv yesterday that an enquiry committee of the Israel-Jordan M.A.C., composed of two U.N. representatives and the acting head of the Israel delegation, went out yesterday afternoon to investigate.

A complaint and request for an emergency session of the M.A.C. had been sent to the chairman, General de Ridder.

The committee found that a quantity of explosive material had been placed under the rails about two kilometres north of



the Kalkilya railway station. A section of the line was shattered and three waggons derailed. The tracks of two men were found leading across the armistice line.

Will you please see my memorandum no. 130/53; also my Ministerial Despatch no. 5/53 of February 2nd, and memorandum no. 181/53 of the same date - both the latter by this bag.

2. At about 12.30 p.m. on Tuesday February 3rd, 1953, Tel Aviv was agog with excitement - the Jordanians had that morning penetrated Israel territory, "blown up" a Haifa/Tel Aviv bound train near Qalqilya and machine-gunned the wrecked train! That was the story that came to us from British sources. Since Qalqilya is no more than 30 kilometres (18 miles or so) from Tel Aviv, I thought that the opportunity to investigate an "incident" on-the-spot was too good to miss. We hear of so many of these incidents twenty-four hours or so after their occurrence and the places are usually so far distant that ordinarily it would be a waste of time to visit the scene of operations. The Qalqilya train wrecking affair was, however, "hot-news" and, taking Mr. J.C. Ingram with me, I went to see what it was all about. I left the Chancery at 12.45 p.m. on the date mentioned, fifteen minutes after hearing of the business, and, after a tedious drive along the Israel/Jordan frontier and visiting several police posts en route, we were directed to a spot where the Israel railway track runs along the border literally within a matter of yards of Jordan territory. To get to the scene of the "accident" we were obliged to walk along the permanent way for about half a mile.

3. At the last police post visited,

I met a Commissioned Officer of the border Police, a Captain - an intelligent and seemingly frank person who spoke and understood English exceedingly well. I put the following questions to him: "When and at what hour did the incident occur?" "What was the make-up of the train - a passenger or goods train or a mixed assortment of wagons?" "How many wagons were derailed and were they wrecked?" "Was anyone killed or injured," and "was the train fired on by machine-guns or other weapons before or after the occurrence." My informant said that the train was "mined", either by an electrically operated or by a percussion mine, at 9.15 p.m. the previous night. The train was a "goods" only comprising oil fuel wagons each of 20.45 tons capacity. Three of these, numbers 9, 10 and 11 (about the centre of the train) were derailed - not wrecked. No one was killed or injured nor was the train fired on by machine guns or rifle fire before or after the event. (The Israelis reported that heavy fire by automatic weapons and rifles was opened on the train from the Qalqilya Police Station - Jordan). My informant volunteered the information that the "wreckage" had all been cleared; that men were repairing the permanent way upon which traffic had already been restored and that, upon the ground being examined by trackers, there were "tracks of persons leading from the scene of the derailment to the Jordan border - in the direction of Falama: the village which, on two occasions during the week ending January 31st, Israeli Army detachments attacked in force - see my memorandum no. 181/53 dated February 2nd, 1953. This man knew what he was talking about, because the incident occurred in his area - half a mile, as the crow flies, from his post where, as the senior officer, he is quartered and puts in most of his time day and night. He was unhesitatingly clear on his facts and, in my opinion, only strayed from the truth when, with slight embarrassment, he rather lamely said that "tracks led to the border" - the usual Israeli line in connection with all border incidents.

4. Ingram and I went on our way from this post and, as I have remarked, walked along the permanent way to the point where a gang of about twenty Arab labourers had just finished putting in two new sleepers and a section of track (one piece only) and were engaged in tightening up the fish-plates and dog-spikes and making good the bed of the permanent way. Three fairly long goods trains passed over the track while we were in the vicinity. I inspected the length of rail which had been removed - about 20 feet or so. At one end of this, two pieces each about a foot long had been broken completely off the remainder - extraordinary breaks to be found in either iron or mild steel which usually buckles or twists under stress or strain and normally does not break. The breaks I saw had the appearance of fractures - the result of a blow or series of blows. The longest piece of this broken section of track, from which the two smaller lengths had been severed, was about sixteen to eighteen feet. One end was slightly bent and discoloured by a "whiteish" substance - obviously the effects of an explosion of sorts. The two wooden sleepers which had been removed showed no signs of splintering nor were they burnt. Beyond the two sleepers and the pieces of rail, there was no debris lying about, nor was the ground in the vicinity disturbed, as it would have been had a truck or trucks fallen broadside; nor was there any trace or evidence of a hole such as would have been produced by the detonation of a mine of any explosive power. For a distance of about twenty yards or so, indentations on each of the sleepers,

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within nine inches of either side of the rails, showed that vehicles had left the tracks and rolled along the permanent way - in a fairly straight line, before impetus stopped. As a gang of thirty to forty workmen had been tramping about the ground in the vicinity of the accident for eighteen hours or so, any tracks of saboteurs were completely obliterated - if such tracks ever existed. Incidentally, within 10/15 feet of the permanent way and extending to the road nearest the frontier - about a quarter of a mile distant, there is green standing crop of about two acres.

5. Here I should remark that the hour of my inspection was 2.30 p.m. on February 3rd. The derailment occurred at 9.15 p.m. the previous night. United Nations Observers had not inspected the scene of the incident up to the time I left. On the return journey to Tel Aviv, within three miles or so of the derailment, Ingram and I met a fleet of white-painted United Nations jeeps being driven like hell with screaming sirens - United Nations Observers, keyed up and keen, "hurrying" to investigate this latest "Jordanian breach of the Armistice Agreement and violation of Israel territory": 18 hours after the event when there was practically nothing, by way of visible evidence, to confirm this "comic-strip" derailment. A poor show - when one remembers that United Nations Observers are based in the demilitarized zone near Jerusalem: a two hours journey from Qalqilya! They would, of course, hear what I was told, and, in fact, see less than Ingram and I saw, but would doubtless be suitably impressed by the Israeli story that "tracks led to the border."

6. It apparently never crossed the mind of the Israelis to cordon off the spot immediately after the occurrence; to leave the derailed trucks as they stood; the dislodged and broken rail as it was after the alleged explosion; the fractured pieces of metal where it was said they had been blown; the hole made by the detonation by which could be judged the force of the explosion, and, by which, possibly, the identity of the explosive could be established: or to leave the sleepers in position as they were after the event; to take plaster casts of a few of the footprints near or leading to or from the scene, so that, when the United Nations Observers appeared they would have the whole picture before them. That they arrived 18 hours after the occurrence was bad - many hours too late to investigate the incident thoroughly.

7. On my return to Tel Aviv, I called on and had a long talk with the British Ambassador, Sir Francis Evans, who showed me the afternoon editions of several Hebrew newspapers in which it was said

"An Israel Army spokesman made the following official statement this morning:- "A goods train which was on its way from Haifa to Lydda, struck an electric mine near Qalqilya (on the Western border of the Arab Triangle) and several wagons were derailed. The train was fired on when it struck the mine, but no one was hurt. An army patrol which arrived immediately on the scene made the area safe against any further attempt at sabotage."

All the late evening Hebrew papers carried the same story, and the morning editions today, February 4th, have repeated it. The Israel Broadcasting Service, "Kol Israel," broadcast the same account of the affair at 2 p.m. and 10.15 p.m. on February 3rd and again in the 7 a.m. news-bulletin this morning.

8. The British Ambassador and I discussed this incident at length and neither of us could make up our minds whether it was an amateurish reprisal by the Arabs of the "Little Triangle", following the two serious attacks by Israelis on the village of Falama last week, or whether the Israelis staged this derailment in order to divert the attention of Britain and America from Israeli transgressions in recent weeks - a period during which Israeli Army detachments have flagrantly violated the Jordan frontier on several occasions. So serious a view have the United Kingdom and the United States taken of these armed forays into Jordan territory by the Israelis, that, on instructions from their respective Governments, the British and American Ambassadors saw the Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs last week, and pointed out, in no uncertain terms, the obligations of Britain and America (and also France) under the 1950 Declaration which guaranteed the territorial integrity of Jordan's frontier.

9. We, the British Ambassador and I, entertain much doubt about the veracity of the Israel story of the derailment. For myself, I do not believe it. I feel that, had this alleged act of sabotage occurred in the time of that legendary hero of detective fiction, Sherlock Holmes, he would have remarked, with much truth: "Obviously, my dear Watson, an inside job."

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10. The British Ambassador told me about his interview with the Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sharett, which, he said, followed the first attack on Falama by Israeli troops. Sharett would not admit the occurrence, but treated the British Ambassador to a long diatribe on the provocation to which Israel was subjected by Jordan. He quoted figures of alleged killings and murders by Jordanian irregulars, marauders and Arab Legion detachments, and listed to Sir Francis Evans, the Ambassador, the quantities of and articles stolen; and detailed the numbers of horses, cattle and sheep driven across the border. He also discussed what he termed "the truculence of the Jordanians" at meetings of the Mixed Armistice Commission. Evans told me that Sharett talked incessantly during the whole of the interview, and barely gave him, Evans, an opportunity to point out that H.M.G. in the United Kingdom viewed with grave concern the series of flagrant violations of Jordan's frontier of which Israel was accused - accusations which, he pointed out to Sharett, had not been disproved. The British Ambassador told me that, in a matter of five hours after his interview with Sharett, the village of Falama was shelled by mortars, a heavily armed force of 300 Israeli troops crossed the border into Jordan and, under a barrage of hand grenades, carried out demolition operations and destroyed a number of Arab dwellings.

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11. Sir Francis Evans then went on to talk about other sections of the Israel/Jordan frontier, notably Mount Scopus. The Israelis have said that, in present circumstances, they are not prepared to de-mine the British

War Cemetery on Mount Scopus; nor the area in its vicinity which is supposedly mined - their contention being that, having regard to the heightened tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier, the continued existence of these mine-fields constitutes a valuable safeguard against a Jordanian advance on or attack against Israel from that direction. The Jews are said to have about 80 men in the University and the Hospice on Scopus, and it is known, said Evans, that there has been a good deal of gun-running from Jerusalem and its environs up to Scopus. The Ambassador said that, over the past few months, it was common knowledge, though not proved "right up to the hilt", that the Israelis had been erecting fortifications in the vicinity of Scopus and on the approaches to the Mount; also, that there was incontrovertible evidence of the Israelis being *discovered in an attempt on December 14th, 1952, to smuggling large quantities of all types of ammunition up to the University; that much of that ammunition had been seized by the Arab Legion; and that there had been countless incidents of lesser importance which proved beyond a scintilla of doubt that the Israelis were no less blameworthy than the Jordanians in this progressively increasing border warfare.

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WEDNESDAY,
FEBRUARY 4, 1953

Arabs Claim Israel Armoured Car Raid

The Arab News Agency claims that five Israel armoured cars opened fire on Kalkilya village at midnight on Monday. Jordan forces replied and fire was exchanged for three hours. Jordan reportedly lodged a protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission, and has also asked for an emergency meeting to discuss the alleged flight of Jewish planes over Arab Palestine.

12. I have dictated this memorandum on February 4th, 1953 - the day following my visit to the point opposite Qalqilya where the derailment of the goods train occurred. Today's papers, English and Hebrew, carry the attached story - yet another Israeli raid into Jordan territory at the same place: this time by armoured vehicles.

13. The situation is extremely serious and it would appear that, unless the Great Powers, Britain, the United States and France can exert pressure on Israel and Jordan alike to "damp down" this frontier tension, and stop these forays into the territory of each other, it seems inevitable that a major conflict

must emerge out of these progressively serious incidents and border warfare.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

* See my report - memorandum no. 1462/52 dated December 15th, 1952.

OCWF.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Friday, February 6th, 1953.

THE WORKING WEEK

By S. Eliahu

Arabs Wage 'Little War'

THE midnight freight train from Haifa had already travelled two thirds of the way to Tel Aviv, Tulkarm, just across the border, had been left behind, when machine gun fire broke the monotonous clatter of the wheels. The train passed on until a few minutes later the driver, a Palestine Arab, Salim Mansur, heard a detonation which caused his new Diesel locomotive to shudder to a stop, but left it unhurt.

At sunrise, the material damage was seen to be less than was feared: the three last tankers were derailed and some 30 metres of track demolished. Two sleepers stamped 1917 were damaged, and a wide but shallow crater marked the place where two mines, which had been placed between the rails, had exploded.

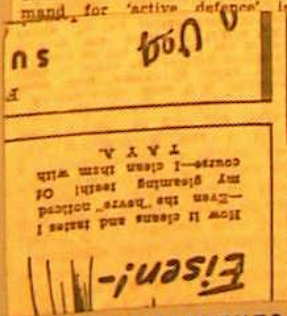
According to the investigators' reconstruction of the incident — (they included a U.N. observer) it appears that the machine gun fire which was heard from the direction of Kalkilya in Jordan served as a signal for the demolition squad that the train was approaching. They must have been a bit over-excited, or not too well trained for they were about three seconds late. The explosion occurred when the train had almost passed, and not when the engine passed over the mines. A large coloured handkerchief was found nearby and — as usual — the footprints led to the armistice lines, in this case only a stone's throw.

When the military attachés of the Western Powers arrived at the scene some 18 hours later, the sleepers had been replaced, the track repaired and the first freight train had already passed on its way. The seriousness of the incident was, however, only too patently obvious, particularly in the light of previous incidents in the same area during the last fortnight. The growing shadow of World War III, together with shipments of jet planes from the West and anti-Zionist broadcasts from the East, have given the Arabs new impetus in their 'little war' against Israel. Their effect on the public has been to make it more sensitive about incidents of this kind, and the demand for 'active defence' is



"Eli says it must be a gesture of solidarity with Eshed."

June 1952, Israel settled over 20 per cent of the 25,000 Arab refugees in her own borders by providing employment for them. In Jordan only 25,500 of the 470,000 have been removed from the list of refugees, and of these 14,261 through discovery of their false registration, 1,248 through death and 513 through emigration. In fact only about 10,500, or less than 2.5 per cent have therefore been settled within the framework of the country's economy. This makes it somewhat easier to understand the large number of infiltrators, whether they cross on their own initiative or with Jordan's blessing.



WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

THE JERUSALEM POST

Tuesday, February 3rd, 1953.

Jordan Can Restore Border Peace, Israel Tells Britain

Britain Wants Border Peace

LONDON, Thursday (UP). — Britain has formally warned Israel to avoid incidents and keep the peace with Jordan, it was announced at the Foreign Office today. The British Ambassador to Israel, Sir Francis Evans, gave the warning to the Israel Government yesterday. It was reinforced today

U.S. Concerned Over Middle East Tension

WASHINGTON, Thursday (UP). — State Department officials said here yesterday that it remained American policy "not to countenance warfare" in the Middle East. The Department was keeping in close touch with developments that might lead to serious trouble between Israel and Jordan, a spokesman said.

Mr. Henry Byrond, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, expressed his Government's "concern over the mounting tension" between the two Governments in the last few days to Israel and Jordan diplomatic representatives.

Commenting on recent border incidents, the "New York Times" today said, "We are reminded again that the Middle East is an area of friction and danger... The Arabs retain their intense hostility and fears that Israel is the beachhead of 'Western Imperialism'... If ever a State was encircled by potential enemies, Israel is such a one. And to her worries is now added the anti-Semitism of Russia which some think presages a bid for Arab friendship."

"All this adds up to an inflammatory atmosphere which must not be permitted to become too hot."

"Relations between Israel and Britain are friendly and the British role must necessarily be a pacifying one," the "Times" said.

in representations made to the Israel Ambassador here, Mr. Eliahu Elath, in a lengthy meeting with the Assistant Under-Secretary of State, Sir Reginald James Bowker, a spokesman stated.

The American and French governments have been informed of the British note.

The British statement pointed out the "necessity for the Israel Government to take all possible steps within its power to avoid incidents along the Jordan border," the spokesman said. It stressed the "need to maintain the stability of the area in line with the 1950 tripartite declaration on Middle Eastern stability and security."

Britain also informed the Jordan Government that "Her Majesty's Government stands by the 1948 Anglo-Jordan treaty," the spokesman said. This had been made clear to the Israel Government and to its Ambassador in London.

No U.K. Action

Britain did not anticipate any specific action. "The treaty was invoked in general terms," the spokesman added. The Government made it clear in its representations today that incidents of the nature complained of by Jordan should be avoided in the interests of the stability of the Middle East where efforts were now in progress to reach a broad defence settlement.

Jordan is entitled to ask for British military aid in accordance with the first article of the Anglo-Jordan treaty, an Amman Foreign Ministry spokesman stated yesterday afternoon, according to ANA. The recent Jewish attacks on Jordan territory were open acts of aggression.

The treaty, which was negotiated in 1948, as a revision of the 1945 treaty, provides for mutual military aid should either country become involved in hostilities and for concerted defence measures should such hostilities become imminent, in addition to other articles.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

THE JERUSALEM POST

Wednesday, February 4th, 1953.

REVIEW OF YESTERDAY'S PRESS

Border Warfare And Tension Excite Comment

Commenting on the growing tension on the borders of Israel, "Haboker" (General Zionist) says that a major Arab offensive against Israel has been launched. The paper assumes that the web of lies about "Israel aggression" will not hold for more than a few days, but technically we are at the present moment on the defensive, i.e., we have to explain the situation to the outside world.

The paper refers to an article published a few days ago by Mr. D.R. Elston in "Ha'aretz" in which it was stated that outside observers tend a priori to charge Israel with the responsibility for such incidents, because it is believed that Israel is most interested in a revision of the frontier. The paper says that it does not know whether the writer bases his opinion on what he was told by foreign diplomats or whether this is a matter of private intuition, but the very fact that such prejudice might exist somewhere makes a larger measure of vigilance on our part imperative. The paper demands that in the near future more attention should be given to foreign political issues and that they should be dealt with by a coalition forum.

Jet Aircraft

"Hatzofe" (Hapoel Hamizrachi) comments on the Galtakell statement opposing the supply of jet aircraft to the Arab states, and says that there are similar dangerous tendencies in the U.S. Even the "New York Times" which cannot be exactly called a "Zionist paper" has drawn attention to the increased danger of war following the infiltration of irregulars from Jordan, the threats of the Egyptian dictator etc. The situation on the borders has reached a dangerous stage, says the paper, and this demands military preparedness on our part.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A1838, 175/11/29 PART 2

THE JERUSALEM POST

Friday, February 6th, 1953.

REVIEW OF YESTERDAY'S PRESS

Grave Border Situation Causes Concern

The grave border situation is dealt with editorially by "Davar" (Histadrut) and "Al-Hamishmar" (Mapam).

"Davar" points out that the mine attack on the railway near Kalkilya was only a link in a long chain of serious outrages. The paper doubts if the Jordan authorities are still capable of maintaining the armistice agreements, or if they are willing to do so. According to "Davar," the world at large will not be deceived by Jordan's manoeuvres such as appeals to Great Britain and the U.S. for protection against alleged Israel attacks.

"Al Hamishmar," while stressing the heavy tasks of the Israel Defence Army against armed aggression, asserts that the political aspect of the situation is not less serious than the question of military security. The Arab rulers and dictators behave like "spoilt children" in consequence of Western appeasement towards them, the paper says. Now they are even asking for British and American backing for open warfare against Israel, and they are encouraged in this trend by "imperialist" politics. "Al Hamishmar" says and warns the Israel Government of illusions in this direction which might weaken military vigilance.

Column One

BY

David Courtney

SPECULATION trails doggedly behind the diplomat. It is a fair speculation that yesterday's visits of the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Monnet Davis; the British Ambassador, Sir Francis Evans; and the French Charge d'Affaires, M. Yves Debrouse, to the Foreign Minister, Mr. Moshe Sharett, bore some relation to the three-Power declaration of 1950. We know that they concerned the angry state of affairs along the Israel-Jordan border, where, to constant plundering incursions across the frontier into Israel has been added organized sabotage, of which the mine-laying incident on railway tracks near Kalkilya is the most recent and conspicuous example. And from there, especially in view of Jordan's formal appeal to the Powers, it is reasonable to move to the supposition that the signatories to the tripartite declaration of 1950 are considering what might be done, within the terms of the declaration, to ease an ugly border situation. The Government in Amman also invoked the Anglo-Jordan Treaty, which promises them British help in the case of aggression. It could not have been more than an elaborate gesture. Israel's response to mounting Arab banditry along the frontier may have been sharp: it was not aggression; and Jordan's elaboration to the level of its treaty with Britain, of a state of affairs which the Jordanian authorities have allowed to get out of hand, could only have been intended to serve as propaganda.

A TENSE frontier situation has developed out of lawlessness rather than from threatening or provocative measures of a military kind. There have been no alarming military movements. There seems to be no reason, on the evidence, to suppose that anyone is contemplating war. If anything, it is the ab-

sence of adequate and effective regular forces from the Jordan side of the frontier which is a main cause of the increase in border incidents. On the Arab side, where sit discontented village communities and large bodies of sullen refugees with a grievance against the Jews and small sense of loyalty to Amman considerable responsibility for frontier law and order seems to have been left to the National Guard. This body is recruited from among the disaffected Palestinian Arabs, is officially armed, and appears to be subject only to the authority of village and encampment mukhtars. It is not surprising to be told that the National Guard often makes common cause with the marauders. And therefore it is not surprising to learn that Israel's frontier units have had to take severe measures from their side in order to put a stop to armed Arab forays which had begun to take very heavy toll of valuable property and to sabotage important development work over a large area.

BUT let us not talk of war. In a situation that has grown as tense as it has along the Israel-Jordan border, the risk of warlike act and warlike response becomes serious; but at the present stage there is still a chance of restoring discipline and order along the frontier and that chance should be encouraged. Although some official Jordan connivance in the frontier infractions, plundering raids and sabotage has been charged on good evidence, it seems probable that the Government in Amman has not itself deliberately sought the trouble. In any event, it should be possible to convince Amman of the necessity for maintaining responsible control in the frontier areas and of reverting, in co-operation with the Israel authorities, to the effective use of machinery for keeping to a minimum the illegal crossing of the frontier. Clearly, someone must put a stop to it, by some reasonable means; and not leave it until exasperation counsels the means of war.

Jerusalem, February 6.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 181/53.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

2nd February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israel/Jordan relations - tension on the
frontier and elsewhere.

R/S 24/2

I wrote last week on the heightened tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier and remarked that, over the past few months, the situation has progressively deteriorated until today it is a matter for wonderment why the many skirmishes between Israel Army detachments and those of the Arab Legion do not develop into a conflict of international magnitude: my memorandum no. 130/53 of 23rd January, 1953 refers.

2. The gravity of the situation may be assessed by the prominence which the press, on both sides of the frontier, are giving the matter. The latest development, featured by the Israeli and Jordanian press, is that Jordan has asked the United Kingdom to protect her border from Israeli aggression and has demanded of the United States Ambassador in Amman that America take action in accordance with the four-Power Declaration of 1950. Captions such as that below are daily features of newspapers published in Israel and Jordan and keep tension in both countries at "fever heat".

90

Jordan Asks UK to Protect Border From 'Aggression'

3. My information is that, on January 31st, 1953, Jordan officially called on Britain to implement the Anglo-Jordan Treaty of 1948 under which, as is known, the United Kingdom undertook to protect Jordan from external aggression. The request, so I am told, was made during a meeting between the Jordanian Minister of Defence, Anwar Nuseibeh, acting on behalf of the Prime Minister, Abul Huda, and the Chargé d'Affaires of the British Embassy in Amman. This request followed Jordanian allegations that her frontier and territory had been repeatedly violated by Israeli troops during the week ending January 30th, 1953. Later the same day, January 31st, Nuseibeh called on the American Ambassador, Mr. Joseph Green, and, as I have said elsewhere in this memorandum, demanded the immediate implementation of the four-Power Declaration of 1950.

*Copy to N
Ref 3.*

4. Prominence has been given in the Jordan press to alleged border incidents during the past few days. I quote "Falastin", an Old City (Jordan) daily which is fairly reliable and which covers the news appearing in other Old City newspapers and in those published in Amman, Hebron and Ramallah. "Falastin" has the added advantage of being on-the-spot to report incidents in the troubled Jerusalem area, and to pick up odd scraps of news from the Mixed Armistice Commission with the Jordan member of which it maintains close contact. Most featured in the Jordan press is an account of a second attack by Israeli Armed forces on *Falameh. The Jordanians now say that this attack was carried out by a force of 300 fully equipped Israel soldiers in battle-dress, who were guided to the Arab positions by an Israel plane. The attack, so the story goes, was preceded by a half hour barrage by three-inch mortars entrenched in near-by Jewish settlements. During the battle, which continued for five hours, the Jews succeeded in demolishing some of the Jordanian National Guards' defence positions and in penetrating the village, where they blew up three houses.

5. Jordanian papers also claim that the Jordan and United Nations committee of enquiry, which arrived at the scene on the following morning, found a large number of ammunition cases branded 'Made in Israel', as well as bombs grenades and mines. Traces of blood and the marks of bodies being dragged towards Israel territory were also found.

6. At a meeting of the Mukhtars of the villages of the Tulkarm district on January 29th, it was decided to demand that the Jordan authorities build defensive fortifications along the "Triangle" armistice line.

7. Writing editorially, "Falastin" declared that only the joint action of Amman, Damascus, Beirut and Cairo can give the proper reply to these continued attacks.

8. The Israeli version of the affair follows the usual pattern - a group of marauders, which had crossed the lines from Jordan, "was engaged by an Israel Army detachment and forced to retire".

9. The Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission met in emergency session to consider the Falameh incident and several other Jordanian complaints of a similar nature. The Israelis grudgingly admit that the Chairman of that Commission, General Bennet de Ridder, expressed his belief that "Israel was guilty of a technical breach of the Armistice Agreement." The Jordanians, through the Arab News Agency and in a Hashemite wireless news-bulletin last evening, January 31st, gave a slightly fuller account of the Commission's finding:

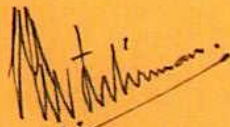
"The penetration of Israel forces into Jordan, when two persons were killed and several others wounded, and the destruction of several houses, constitute a grave breach of the Armistice Agreement. The M.A.C. called on Israel to adopt all possible measures to prevent a recurrence of such incidents."

* I reported the first attack on this village in my memorandum no. 130/53 dated January 23rd, 1953.

OCWF.

10. Any foreign observer in Israel would be the first to admit that the Jordanians are provocative - irregulars cross the frontier at night to steal and smuggle and, in the process, to do a little quiet throat-cutting of Jews; they make off with anything they can lay hands on and drive Israeli herds of cattle and flocks of sheep across the lines into Jordan. The Arab Legion and the National Guard occasionally put a few bursts of machine gun and rifle fire into Jerusalem (Israel) and, now and then, carry out forays into Israel territory. But the Israelis punitive expeditions and hostile incursions not of that nature, penetrate deep into Jordan territory and are no hastily conceived or executed affairs. Israeli Armed detachments go into these affrays in battle order - figuratively "armed to the teeth". From what I have heard, their tactics follow standard battle practice - objectives are "softened-up" by mortar fire; then, under a barrage of hand grenades, infantry "move in for the kill" and demolition. The Jordanians are undoubtedly provocative, but the Israelis are no less culpable in the matter of worsening the state of affairs on the frontier. Of the Jews, the Jordanians say they are "seized with a bloody hysteria". The "leftish" press in Israel say that Jordanian forays into Israel territory are "inspired by British advisers in Amman."

11. See also my Despatch No. 5/53 dated February 2nd, 1953, being a talk with the Director-General of the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs - Mr. Walter Eytan.



O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Monday, February 2nd, 1953.

Monday, February 2, 1953
Sheva 17, 5713. — Janada-al-ala 15, 1372.

BORDER warfare along the Israel-Jordan frontier has reached grave proportions. Its seriousness is the direct consequence of Jordan's failure, through direct

BORDER WARFARE

policy, reckless connivance by frontier authorities in the incursions of Arab marauders into Israel, or through mere incapacity, to fulfill its part in the armistice agreement and in subsidiary agreements reached through the M.A.C.

So serious has the situation become that normal work in the border settlements of Israel has been obstructed over a long period, as the result of frequent thefts and the need for settlers to mount guard duty when they should be at work in the fields or resting after a hard day. Possibly it has been Jordan's intention to bring about just such obstructions and strain among Israel's settlements close to the border as part of the Arab States' economic and psychological warfare against Israel. In that case — or any other — it should be perfectly clear that the Government and security forces of Israel cannot sit complacently by, but must take every step open to them to end, or at any rate considerably reduce, lawlessness and banditry along the frontier.

Over the past few weeks the need for such action has increased alarmingly. Large-scale marauding forays into Israeli territory, in which, according to Army reports, members of the semi-official National Guard have participated, have multiplied in number. Efforts to secure the co-operation of the Jordan authorities towards preventing these incursions, or at least towards apprehending the marauders, have met only with cynical rejoinders. The bands encountered by Israel patrols have invariably been armed and, when caught up with, have used their arms. The National Guard, formed ostensibly to guard the Arab side of the frontier, has in some cases given open protection to the marauders. No State conscious of its responsibility to its own territory and its own people could permit this anarchic state of affairs to continue; much less so against mounting evidence that the authorities of the neighbouring State were conniving in frontier lawlessness if not actually provoking it.

Israel's determination to maintain security along its borders and to give its citizens in those areas the protection they have a right to, has induced the Government in Amman to invoke British assistance under the Anglo-Jordan treaty of 1948, by which Britain agreed to go to Jordan's aid against "aggression", and to demand the exercise of that part of the Three-Power declaration of 1950 which guaranteed the *status quo* in this region. It is difficult to see how these extraordinary invocations can have any other effect in London and Washington than to produce doubts about their sincerity. There is, indeed, a serious state of tension along the frontier; and it may well be that it has gone beyond the level at which the machinery of the M.A.C. is effective. But if that is so, it is either because Jordan wishes it to be so or because its recent policy of frontier provocation has got out of hand, with the result that it has yielded to the temptation, common in such instances, to escape responsibility by action calculated to spread alarm among its own people and throw dust in the eyes of the world.

It is a policy that will not divert this country's Government and security arm from its purpose of protecting the frontiers and the lives and property of its citizens. We profoundly hope that that purpose can be achieved without resort to reprisal or the use of arms beyond the strict needs of self-defence. We still believe in the usefulness of the mixed armistice commissions. Indeed, the Israel-Jordan M.A.C. is due to meet tomorrow morning to consider the very complaints which, presumably, are the basis of Jordan's appeal to the Anglo-Jordan Treaty and the Three-Power declaration. But it must be made perfectly clear that if Jordan refuses to cooperate in pacifying the border area, not all the fantastic extravagances of treaty invocations will prevent Israel from taking whatever steps may be forced upon her to ensure peace and security within her own frontiers, while bringing our complaint before the Security Council, where obviously in given circumstances it belongs. As a preliminary the country will welcome the steps the Foreign Minister is reported to have taken to post the Ambassadors of the United States and of the United Kingdom on the latest developments in this border warfare.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

National Archives of Australia

NAA: A1838, 175/11/29 PART 2

THE JERUSALEM POST

Monday, February 2nd, 1953.

Palestine Arabs Cause Tension Along Border

By SRAYA SHAPIRO, POST Military Correspondent

TEL AVIV, Sunday. — The tension on the Jordan border was to be feared as soon as the defence measures passed to Palestinians in the Jordan Government. Anwar-Nuseibeh, the Minister of War, and Azmi Nashashibi, the senior officer at the M.A.C., both Palestinians could not be expected to deal harshly with marauders and infiltrators who are overwhelmingly Palestinians and live or operate from near the demarcation line.

Former agreements to stop infiltration and punish marauders in their country of origin would not be taken seriously by the men who are, in virtue of their office, supposed to implement them.

In a natural state of affairs, the Governments of border countries are interested in preventing illegal traffic across the frontier. The Israel representatives of the M.A.C. have always endeavoured to induce their opposite numbers to take seriously their responsibility to stop infiltration under any pretext.

Israel Diagnosis Correct

It had always been pointed out that by permitting marauders to cross the border unpunished, the internal peace of Jordan was being endangered. Events proved that the Israel diagnosis was right.

At times, when the central Jordan authorities and the Arab Legion were intent on keeping the frontier sealed, they succeeded to a great extent. Another example is Syria, where the Army prevents infiltration although Palestine Arabs live on the border under very unpleasant conditions, and are prevented by the Damascus politicians from going further inside Syria.

In Jordan, however, marauders are in fact feted almost as national heroes — much in the way highway robbers were given the aura of "national liberators" during the 1936-38 disturbances. Theft and murder, especially when Jews were the victims, was never considered a very objectionable act in the Levant.

It is characteristic in this part of the world to regard lack of restraint as an act of encouragement, and the Jordan Government does not seem to restrain infiltration.

The frontier, however, must be closed, either on both sides—or on one side. The question whether an Army patrol, when pursuing an armed gang, had crossed the frontier for a short distance, seems preposterous to military commanders in the field.

Korean Counterpart

In a broader sense, the situation has its counterpart in the Korean war in which the question of bombing Chinese bases beyond the Yalu is debated. It is a basic rule in strategy that the base of the enemy attacks must be destroyed, this being much more important than the repulsion of the attack itself. In the long run, it is conceivable, that the Army will seek permission to raid territory beyond the border to destroy marauders' bases. If the Government is not prepared to act,

Israel Wants Peace, Aid—ANA Reports

There were two reasons for Israel's aggressive acts recently, the Arab News Agency reports, quoting "international circles" in Jerusalem.

The first is Israel's desire to press the Arab States into making peace; while the second is her plan to win Western sympathy and military aid.

In its weekly commentary yesterday evening, Ramallah Radio enlarged on the subject, expressing confidence that the energetic protests made by the Jordan Government to British and American diplomatic representatives would yield results. The bravery of the National Guard units guarding frontier villages was praised.

League's Political Committee to Meet

Jordan has requested the Arab League's Secretariat to convene an emergency session of its Political Committee to discuss recent events along the Israel-Jordan border, "Falastin," the Old City daily, reports.

The Jordan delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission has requested the three other Arab M.A.C. delegations to meet in Amman as soon as possible to discuss the same subject. The date of the announced meeting in Cairo of the four Arab M.A.C. delegations has been cancelled, the paper says. The meeting was scheduled for March.

11 Marauders Killed, 1 Hurt in Week

Eleven infiltrators were killed, one wounded and one captured by Defence Forces between January 22 and 29, an Army spokesman announced yesterday.



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WITH THE C

THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

CONFIDENTIAL



TEMPLE BAR 2435

AJE/JB
3/12/39

Memo. No. 118/53.

MEMORANDUM for : The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Confidential

18 FEB 1953

CANBERRA

175/11/29
AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2.

9th February, 1953.

Arab-Israeli Relations.

Further to my memorandum No. 109/53 of 6th February, 1953, I enclose extracts of further telegrams dated 5th and 6th February from the U.K. Embassy, Tel Aviv, in connection with present tension in Arab Israeli relations.

A. J. Eastman
(A. J. Eastman)
for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

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Confidential.

CONFIDENTIAL

The following is an extract from a telegram from Tel Aviv to the Foreign Office, dated 5th February, 1953.

No. 32.

"Your telegram No. 43: Israel-Jordan Frontier.

Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs (grp. omitted) my request for interview by summoning me this morning. United States Ambassador and French Charge d'Affaires were summoned separately to receive similar intimations.

2. Minister recited again the recent frontier incursions by Jordan elements, mentioning particularly the mining of the railway (my telegram No. 30). His government were gravely alarmed by the series of incidents culminating in this outrage which had profoundly shocked the people of Israel. At a Cabinet Meeting held yesterday to consider the situation the gravest view had been taken of this action which was military in organization, method and execution and could only be described as an act of war. Decision has been taken that if further acts of this kind occurred Israel reserved the right to adopt such methods and courses of action as they might see fit. He had therefore invited me and other representatives of the Powers concerned in the Tripartite Declaration to inform us of this decision.

2. (sic) I asked what methods were in mind and reminded the Minister that he had referred to the possibility of reprisals, when I saw him on 29th January, as something his Government did not wish to see occur. Was he now intimating that the reprisals were to be undertaken as a policy? We had welcomed an assurance given by the Assistant Director General to the Head of Chancery on 30th January that no such policy was contemplated. Mr. Sharett replied, in effect, that it was not a matter of reprisals but if the Israel forces engaged the infiltrators they would seek by every means, to bring home to them the consequences of their incursions.

3. I then spoke as instructed in your telegram under reference modified by the elimination of the suggestions in the second and third sentences of paragraph 3, of which I did not consider I could make use on the facts so far proved. I emphasized the need for forbearance which I had already recommended on 29th January and stressed the adverse views which must be taken of the organised operations by uniformed task forces, in the course of which the frontier was crossed, villages attacked and women and children killed or injured in a manner which must appear indiscriminate. I urged the Minister to give the high level military (grp. undec.? meetings) a chance to reach a solution before further prejudicing their hope of success and concluded by saying the Her Majesty's Ambassador at Amman had been instructed to urge the Jordan Government to all possible efforts to prevent incidents and infiltration and abate tension.

4. Minister angrily expostulated that Israel could not continue to suffer continuous and increasing pressure on her peace and welfare that the Jordan attacks involved, without taking the only means at her disposal of meeting them. The barrel and other incidents, to which I had referred, had their origin in Jordan's refusal to abide by pledges given when the Armistice was concluded; responsibility for continuing tension lay with them. I replied that to meet violence with violence was to bring even nearer (grp. undec.? point) of explosion which I had every reason to believe his Government desired as little as Her Majesty's Government and urged him to allow a fair chance to more pacific methods of solving the problem."

The following is an extract from Tel Aviv to the Foreign Office, dated 6th February, 1953.

No. 33.

"Israel Jordan Frontier.

Following is text of press announcement of 6th February by Israel Foreign Ministry.

(Begins)

The Spokesman of the Israel Foreign Ministry commented today on the reports published by agencies abroad, based upon the announcement made by the Spokesman of the British Foreign Office, which referred to a warning given by Britain to Israel to avoid incidents along the Jordan border. The version published conveyed the impression that a one sided démarche had been made in this case by the British Government vis-a-vis Israel alone. The Foreign Ministry Spokesman said that these reports by no means reflected the true nature of the conversation which took place and the steps actually taken. No warning had been conveyed to Israel. Concern was expressed lest the border incidents continue, as well as the hope that efforts would be made to put an end to them. It was also expressly stated by the British Ambassador that at the very same time similar representations were being made to the Jordan Government by the British Ambassador in Amman. The gist of the reply of the Foreign Minister of Israel to these representations has already been published. It was to the effect that the Jordan authorities bore sole responsibility for the disturbed state of the border zone, resulting from continued incursions of armed bands from Jordan into Israel, with deliberate intent of perpetrating acts of theft, robbery, sabotage and murder, and that it lay entirely with the Jordan Government to bring that situation under effective control. The interview with the British Ambassador, the Foreign Ministry Spokesman pointed out, took place yesterday upon the invitation of the Foreign Minister of Israel, who transmitted to Sir Francis Evans the appreciation of the situation, in accordance with the conclusions reached by the Israel cabinet at its extraordinary session of Wednesday 4th February. It was on this occasion that the British Ambassador made his representations and received a reply as indicated above. (Ends).

SECRET



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Secret

17 FEB 1953

175/11/29
CANBERRA.

175/11/29.

AUSTRALIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICE,
AUSTRALIA HOUSE,
LONDON, W.C.2.

TEMPLE BAR-081. 2435

AJE/JB
3/12/39

Memo. No. 109/53.

6th February, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for : The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Arab-Israeli Relations.

Further to my memorandum No. 107/53 of 5th February, 1953, I enclose extracts of further telegrams dated 3rd and 4th February from U.K. Embassies Tel Aviv, Amman and Jerusalem and from Foreign Office to the Embassies at Tel Aviv and Amman in connection with present tension in Arab Israeli relations.

A. J. Eastman
(A. J. Eastman)

for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER

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pl*

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File to m. cell 16/2.
A 24/2.*

WR 24/2.

*Copy of memo to UN
P. 2/2.*

CS JD

SECRET

Secret

The following is an extract from a telegram from Tel Aviv to the Foreign Office, dated 3rd February, 1953.

No. 23.

"Israel Jordan Frontier. B.M.E.O. telegram No. 68.

My telegram No. 22 gave my provisional interpretation of the present Israel policy on frontiers, and I see no evidence in Sir Thomas Rapp's telegram under reference incompatible with this interpretation to which I hold.

2. The telegram under reference, Amman telegram No. 34, and Amman Chancery letter of 15th January, led me to believe that there is a danger that a number of unproven assertions and opinions may accumulate to convey an exaggerated impression of sinister Israel intentions going beyond a policy of reprisal on the frontier, to some unspecified plan either for a major attack on Jordan or to provoke Jordan into an attack on Israel. I therefore think it worthwhile to offer the following detailed comments on Rapp's telegram under reference.

(a) Although the Israelis may reasonably think they have won a measure of sympathy from us in their struggle with the Arabs I do not share Glubb's view that the Israel actions are due to confidence of that support: rather the reverse. See paragraph 1 of my telegram No. 22.

(b) I accept that the Israelis have probably been trying to reinforce Scopas as part of a long term general policy of improving their position, but doubt that it is to be connected with the current frontier policy. Comay recently said that he personally would welcome a search of Scopas provided this extended to the Jordan occupied area.

(c) I think it likely that Israelis caused the rumours of their intended sharp reactions to infiltration, to circulate in Jordan, in the hope they would have a preventive effect. Perhaps General de Ridder had the same object in mind in informing the Jordanians of his suspicions.

(d) Although technically the Israelis have not denounced the frontier agreement and seek to throw responsibility on the Jordanians for flouting it, their Commissioner General, in declaring it unworkable, is reprehensible but is, nevertheless, consistent with the policy suggested in my telegram No. 22.

(e) I understand from my Military Attache that intelligence item in second sentence of paragraph 3, reached GHQ ME from Jordan source.

(f) I do not myself accept the internal political explanations for Israel actions in paragraph 3. The New Government coalition is the third (grp. undec ? one) to (grp undec ? select) such a (grp undec) stimulus.

(g) Certainly the incident at Deir Yassin in 1948 was atrocious. It was, however, carried out by the Stern Gang and Irgun Zvai Leumi during the Arab Israel war. A search through diaries for some proof of Arab Jewish atrocities as a key to the policy of the present responsible Israel and Jordan Governments is, I suggest, unprofitable. Moreover, I do not think attacks under consideration were designed, as the Deir Yassin incident is alleged to have been intended, to drive the Arabs from their homes.

3. I consider that while there is case for the Israelis as (grp undec ? was) proposed in my telegram No. 22, their intentions are not such as to warrant implementation of the Anglo Jordan treaty."

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential.

The following is an extract from a telegram from Amman to the Foreign Office, dated 3rd February, 1953.

No. 53.

"My immediately preceding telegram.

Glubb has expressed to me deep concern at the effect on Anglo-Jordan relations (which as you are aware from my telegram No. 601 of 1952 had already been affected by the proceedings in the United Nations' debate on Palestine) of an apparent indifference of Her Majesty's Government to these and other recent Israeli actions (please see paragraph 2 of E.M.E.O. telegram No. 68) which have aroused intense feeling in this country. He states that for the first time there have been anti-British murmurings amongst Arab officers of the Legion, and that there has been a recrudescence of anti-British talk amongst the population (especially of course the West Bank). He would still apparently agree generally with the view expressed in paragraph 5 of my despatch No. 144 of 1952, but only provided that steps are taken to reaffirm that Her Majesty's Government regard the provisions of the Anglo-Jordan Treaty as binding on themselves as well as on Jordan, as it is at present being widely said that the United Kingdom expects Jordan to expend her forces in a war against our enemy, Russia, but will not help her against her enemy, Israel. He points out that it was customary in the past for occasional reference to be made in speeches in the House of Commons and elsewhere to the special ties of friendship uniting the United Kingdom and Jordan and regarding it as essential that something should now be done to indicate that Her Majesty's Government still regard Jordan as their special friend in the Middle East, as in the time of King Abdullah. He particularly urges that as a result of present incidents Her Majesty's Government will not "urge moderation on both sides", since he maintains that Jordan could not have been more moderate and that Israel aggression is unprovoked and inexcusable.

3. (sic) I have previously reported similar warnings from Glubb. They of course ignore the considerable efforts which Her Majesty's Government have been making to assist Jordan economically and which will, I hope be continued as a result of the present financial discussions in London. We have done everything possible to ensure that these efforts are properly appreciated and I believe they have in fact done much to preserve our position. Glubb's suggestion of a public reference to the Treaty at this juncture seems however worth pursuing especially as the Jordan Government have now invoked the Treaty. The opportunity might occur if the Labour Party, as Gaitskill has foreshadowed, raises in Parliament the question of British expenditure on the Arab Legion, but this may be too far ahead. In the meantime, if you should decide to make further representations to Israeli Government, it would be of immense value here if the fact could be made known publicly."

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential.

The following is an extract from a telegram from Jerusalem to the Foreign Office, dated 3rd February, 1953.

No. 14.

"Amman telegram No. 43 to Foreign Office.

The leading article in the Jerusalem Post of 2nd February may throw some light on motives which have prompted recent Israel attacks on Jordanian villages.

2. In this article it is claimed that large scale marauding forays into Israel have multiplied in number over the past few weeks. It maintains that the semi-official Jordanian National Guard take part in these raids; and that Jordanian authorities do not cooperate in preventing raids or arresting marauders; that in fact the Jordanian authorities are conniving in, if not actually provoking, frontier lawlessness.

3. The article goes on to say that if the Jordan Government refuses to cooperate in pacifying the border area Israel will have to take whatever steps may be forced upon her to ensure security within her frontiers, e.g. bringing her complaint before the Security Council.

4. If this article is a reflection of the official Israeli Government's attitude, it is an indication perhaps that the Israelis have now decided to (gp. undec.) take any steps they think necessary, including attacks on Jordanian villages which they allege are the marauders' base.

5. On the other hand Jordanian officially (gp. undec.) Israeli allegations of increased border infiltration by Arabs and maintain that aggressive Israeli policy is aimed at provoking Arab retaliation with the object of causing a suspension of supplies of arms by Western Powers to Arab States. Arabs even suspect that Israel has timed her action at this moment in order to benefit from wave of sympathy in many countries felt for Jews as a result of anti-semitic movement in Russia."

Confidential

CONFIDENTIAL

The following is an extract from a telegram from the Foreign Office to Amman, dated 4th February, 1953.

No. 53.

"Your telegram No. 47 (of 31st January: Frontier Incidents).

While evidence available indicates that the greater share of the blame must attach to Israel, it is impossible to acquit Jordan altogether. She could, I think, do more to prevent infiltration into Israel and so deprive Israel of the justification for staging reprisals.

2. I do not want Jordan to think that Her Majesty's Government will not honour their obligations under the Anglo-Jordan Treaty or the Tripartite Agreement. But equally I cannot encourage her to by-pass the Mixed Armistice Commission and invoke procedure which is only appropriate in the more serious eventualities provided for in the Treaty. The facts do not appear to warrant the belief that Israel intends to attack Jordan, still less that she intends to frighten Jordan into ceding territory. You should therefore inform the Jordan Government in the following sense.

3. I have instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Tel Aviv to make strong representations to the Israel Government regarding their share (which, indeed, seems to be the major share) of responsibility for recent incidents on the frontier particularly the attacks on Falama and Rantis. See my telegram No. 43 (of 4th February) to Tel Aviv. The Jordan Government may rest assured that Her Majesty's Government will honour their obligations under the Anglo-Jordan Treaty and the Tripartite Declaration and are ready at all times for consultation with the Jordan Government as provided by the former instrument. In the present case they are of the opinion that the circumstances do not justify the belief that Jordan is in imminent danger of attack or that the present situation is not one which cannot be dealt with through the existing machinery of the Mixed Armistice Commission. This machinery should be used and strengthened wherever possible. Her Majesty's Government were glad to note that the Jordan military authorities were prepared to depute a high-ranking officer to meet the Israel Chief of Staff and they are confident that with determined restraint on both sides these conversations will have a beneficial effect. They will watch the results with interest. In the meantime they confidently expect that the Jordan Government will studiously avoid any action which might increase the number or the magnitude of the incidents on the frontier and that they will in particular do all they can to prevent infiltrations into Israel. Any suggestion that Jordan was encouraging or even conniving at such infiltration in the hope that Israel would retaliate and that Her Majesty's Government or the other signatories of the Tripartite Declaration would then be obliged to intervene would do Jordan great harm in the eyes of the world and would therefore be most unwelcome to Her Majesty's Government.

4. I should hope that if this advice is followed the suggestion of a meeting between General Glubb and General Robertson and a meeting of the Anglo-Jordan Defence Board will be dropped. If nevertheless the Jordan Government insist on such meetings I would be ready to agree.

5. You should inform your United States and French colleagues of your demarche in general terms but I suggest you do not mention the references to the Anglo-Jordan Treaty unless they are already aware that this has been invoked by the Jordan Government and you think it desirable to enlighten them further."

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential.

The following is an extract from a telegram to the Foreign Office from Amman, dated 4th February, 1953.

No. 58.

"My telegram No. 52.

Arab Legion state that the Israel press and radio have reported that traffic on railway line between Tel Aviv and Haifa has been interrupted by the blowing up of a bridge near the Jordan frontier on the night of 2nd February/3rd February and this is attributed to the Arabs. Explosion was heard by their forward observation posts from which damage could be seen in daylight. They have no (repeat no) responsibility for the incident and find it difficult to believe it could have been done by any Arabs as the place lies in the middle of an area where an Israeli battalion has been concentrated since 22nd January. They fear that the incident may have been staged by the Israel military authorities in order to provide ostensible evidence hitherto lacking of attacks from Jordan."

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
Confidential

The following is an extract from a telegram from the Foreign Office to Tel Aviv, dated 4th February, 1953.

No. 45.

"B.M.E.O. telegram No. 68 (of the 31st January: Frontier incidents Israeli - Jordan.)

I think that we should represent to the Israelis without delay and without prior consultation with the other parties to the Tripartite Declaration our serious concern at the recent incidents which appear to us to reveal a certain degree of official Israel initiative. I note that the United States Government have already made representations.

2. You should inform the Israel Government that Her Majesty's Government are gravely concerned at the recent events which have increased the tension on the border. Her Majesty's Government have a major interest in and responsibility for, the maintenance of peace and security in the Middle East and have declared their opposition to the use of force between any of the states in the area. They cannot pass over in silence developments which, if they continue, could well lead to an explosion.

3. On the evidence at their disposal Her Majesty's Government feel bound to state in their opinion a considerable degree of responsibility rests with the Israel Government for many of the incidents which have occurred in recent months beginning with the incident of the barrel and continuing up to the attacks on Falama and Rantis. Not only could some of these incidents have been avoided, but it is difficult to escape the conclusion that the Israel Government have welcomed the opportunity to resort to reprisals where they have not actually taken the initiative. The attacks on Falama and Rantis seem to have been deliberate and particularly brutal.

4. While much sympathy has been aroused in this country by recent events behind the Iron Curtain, the Israel Government would be making a great mistake if they underrated the effect of the above frontier incidents on public opinion and thought themselves free to take provocative action without incurring odium.

5. I am convinced that the Israel Government can if they wish do much to calm the atmosphere and I look to them, in their own interest and in the common interest, to refrain from any action which is liable to aggravate a situation fraught with danger. Quite apart from the greater issues at stake, a lowering of tension is essential if the proposed meeting between the Israel Chief of Staff and a senior Jordanian officer is to bear fruit.

6. You may modify the wording of your demarche at your discretion, provided that you leave the Israel Government in no doubt of the seriousness of the matter. You should also indicate that I am instructing Her Majesty's Ambassador at Amman to counsel all possible restraint on the part of Jordan; see my telegram No. 53 to Amman (of 4th February).

7. You should inform your United States and French colleagues of your demarche."

The following is an extract from a telegram from Tel Aviv to Foreign Office, dated 4th February, 1953.

No. 30.

"My telegram No. 29: Israel/Jordan Frontier.

Service Attaches were yesterday invited to visit the scene of an incident on evening of 2nd February when three wagons of an Israel goods train were derailed on Haifa Tel Aviv line near Qalqilya (Jordan).

2. Israel authorities stated that tracks of two men led to the Jordan Frontier, and that shortly before the explosion machine gun fire was opened from near Qalqilya an Israel village of Elichu."



16 FEB 1953

CANBERRA

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
CAIRO.

In reply quote No. 2/5/1

Memo.No. 321/53

9th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Punishments of Israeli "Spies"

1. Reference is made to paragraph 18 of this Legation's memorandum No.260/53 of 4th February concerning the stringent measures being taken particularly by Jordan and Syria to prevent alleged Jewish activities within their borders.
2. On 30th January, a Jordanian Court at Nablus inflicted further punishments for "spying". One man and his son were sentenced to life imprisonment with hard labour, and a second man to seven years' imprisonment with hard labour on charges of spying on behalf of Israel.
3. A copy of this memorandum is being forwarded to the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

27th

CS

P.O. Box 273

2/5/1

Australian Legation, Cairo.

Memo.No. 321/53

9th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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Sgd. ALAN RENOUF

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

OFFICE OF THE
MINISTER FOR
D. 16 FEB 1953
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
CANBERRA

The Minister

Israel - Jordan Tension

Mr. Watt thought you would like to
see this United Kingdom report.

We have asked Fuhrman to report also.

Rae Harty
11/2

Seen
7 ✓
12
2
Thank
[Signature]

CONFIDENTIAL
Ref: 2/149



The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 FEB 1953
175/11/29
CANBERRA.

With the Compliments

of the

Official Secretary

13/2
W. H. H. H.
Please hand
to Quarter's room
✓

Copies of letter with enclosure
to Secretary, Prime Minister's Department.

10th February, 1953

Office of the High Commissioner
for the United Kingdom.
Canberra, A.C.T.

CS

(1) Secy
(2) a/sec G. R.

CONFIDENTIAL

Ref: 2/149
GD: LW

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM
CANBERRA

10th February, 1953

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 FEB 1953

Sir,

I am directed by the High Commissioner to transmit the enclosed message about the recent tension between Israel and Jordan.

The High Commissioners in London for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have been informed.

Two copies of this letter with the enclosure are being sent to the Department of External Affairs.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(Sgd.) G. DAVEY

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA

CONFIDENTIAL

ISRAEL - JORDAN TENSION

There has been mounting tension between Israel and Jordan over the past six months and this has culminated in the recent shelling by Israel forces of two Transjordan villages.

2. In the view of the United Kingdom authorities the Israelis are primarily responsible for the present tension but Jordan cannot escape some of the blame. Her fault appears to lie mainly on her failure to prevent infiltration into Israel.

3. Both sides have made representations to the United Kingdom Government. The Jordan Government have also invoked the Anglo-Jordan Treaty (please see United Kingdom Government's telegram H. No.76 of 13th March, 1948 to Australian Government).

4. The United Kingdom Government have instructed the United Kingdom Ambassador in Tel Aviv to emphasise to the Israel Government its grave concern at these developments and to make it clear that in the United Kingdom view much of the responsibility for a potentially explosive situation rests with the Israel Government.

5. Simultaneously the United Kingdom Ambassador in Amman has been instructed to inform the Jordan Government of the representations made to the Israel Government. He will say that the Jordan Government may rest assured that the United Kingdom Government will honor their obligation under the Anglo-Jordan Treaty. In the present instance however the United Kingdom Government believe that this is not a case where the Anglo-Jordan Treaty need be invoked and that the tension can best be lowered through the Jordan-Israel mixed armistice commission. In the meantime the United Kingdom Government confidently expect that the Jordan Government will avoid any action which might increase the tension of the Israel-Jordan border and that they will in particular do all they can to prevent infiltration into Israel.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CANBERRA, A. C. T.

10th February, 1953.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 273

16 FEB 1953

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

In reply quote No.

2/5/1

Memo.No. 260/53

4th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Arab-Israel Relations

1. Further to this Legation's memorandum No.29/52 of 11th January 1952, an endless succession of border incidents between Israel and the neighbouring Arab States, particularly Jordan, occurred during 1952. These incidents were most frequent in mid-1952, and again broke out in great numbers during December.
2. Jordan claimed that on 1st December Israeli soldiers had crossed the frontier south of Jerusalem and laid mines as a reprisal for the reported murder of two Israeli watchmen.
3. Again, Jordan claimed that on the night of 12th December an armed Israeli convoy making for the Hebrew University and the Hadassah enclave within the Arab-held area of Jerusalem, refused to submit to the inspection required by the Armistice regulations, but opened fire on Jordanese troops. According to the Arab story, the Jews were forced eventually to retire, leaving behind 9 crates of arms and ammunitions which they had allegedly been trying to smuggle into the demilitarised area. These crates were left for inspection by the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee and an official Israel party, who were said to have confirmed the Arab charges. Jordan sent an official protest to the United Nations on 16th December over this incident.
4. It will be recalled that an earlier incident of this nature took place in June, 1952 when Israeli troops attempted to transport, as part of their permitted supplies, a mysterious barrel to Hadassah. On that occasion Arab officers asked that the barrel be opened, and when this request was refused, United Nations Observers impounded it in their offices under a continuous guard. On 10th July, General Riley, Chief United Nations Palestine Observer, after opening the mysterious barrel found that it contained only solar oil, and handed it back to the Israeli representatives, overriding Arab complaints that the barrel consisted of two parts, of which he had only inspected the upper.
5. The final incidents for 1952 were with Syria. On 15th December, Syria charged Israeli coast guards with piracy of three Syrian sailing vessels which, it was claimed, contained no war materials. A second incident occurred at the end of December, when an exchange of fire took place on the Israel-Syrian border in a demilitarised region south-east of the Sea of Galilee. When Colonel Taxis, who is chairman of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, investigated the reports on 28th December, he himself, according to Israeli reports, was fired on by the Syrians.

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6. At a press conference in Amman on 19th January, Maitre Azmy El Nashashiby, leader of the Jordanian delegation to the joint Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, declared that during the period May, 1949 to December, 1952, Israel had perpetrated 728 acts of aggression against Jordan. In the course of these raids, he claimed, 142 Arabs had been killed. In addition Jewish aircraft had carried out 278 flights over Jordanian territory.

7. Nashashiby therefore announced that Jordan had abrogated the local commanders' anti-infiltration agreement which was due to expire on 22nd January, since the Jews had persistently violated its provisions. According to the Israelis, however, it was they who had cancelled the agreement, in retaliation for the arrest by Jordan on 4th January of four Jewish soldiers. Jordan claimed that these soldiers had deliberately crossed the frontier, while Israel declared that they had merely missed their way during training. What was developing into a difficult situation was solved on 25th January when the Jordanian authorities handed the four soldiers back to Israeli officials. Immediately upon the expiry or cancellation of the informal local commanders' agreement, there was a further spate of border incidents. These were preceded on 21st January by what the Arabs regarded as a threat broadcast by the Israeli Radio to the effect that "drastic border action" would have to be taken in order to put a stop to alleged Arab infiltration into Jewish territory. This statement was regarded by the Arabs as a warning that the Jews were preparing for some sort of military action along the borders. And certainly several incidents have taken place since the broadcast.

8. On 26th January, Egypt's delegate to the joint Egypt-Israel Truce Committee declared that an armed Jewish force had entered the Gaza-Rafah sector and killed 5 persons; Egypt submitted a strong protest to the Armistice Committee, and called for an immediate investigation, at the same time stating that its frontiers would be reinforced.

9. From Jordan came reports that 2 incidents had taken place within a week. The first attack was alleged to have been on the village of Palma on 22nd January, the second on 30th January on the nearby village of Kafr Gamal and on the village of Retees in the Ramallah district. According to Jordanian communiques, the Arab Legion and the Home Guard had repulsed the attackers and inflicted losses. Representatives of the joint Jordanian-Israel Truce Committee visited the scenes of the attacks and were said to have presented to the Acting Chief United Nations Observer a strongly-worded indictment, with a request that the matter be referred to the Security Council. The Chief United Nations Observer, General Riley, was expected to visit the area during this week in order to examine the strained relations between Jordan and Israel arising out of the border incidents. On 30th January, the Jordanian Defence Minister, stated in Amman that, should Jewish aggressions be repeated on the frontiers, his Armed Forces would meet them with force.

10. Without hearing the Israeli version, it is difficult to know how accurate the various Arab reports of incidents have been. It does appear, however, that either there has been an increase in incidents since last December, or that the Arabs wish to create the impression that such an increase has in fact taken place. Should the latter interpretation be true, the Arab motives would be fairly easy to understand. Having won in their battle against the United Nations Political Committee's draft resolution for direct Arab-Israeli talks, (see paragraph 2 of this Legation's memorandum No. 1304/52 of 31st December and previous correspondence) they might be hoping to gain more

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support for their policies by defaming the Israelis. It seems hardly conceivable that they could yet be fabricating reports of aggression for the purpose of provoking the Israelis to fire the first shot in the long discussed "Second Round".

11. Should the Jews, however, be in fact responsible for an increase in border incidents, it is rather more difficult to understand their motives. Possibly, they might be hoping to call the Arabs' bluff after the recent Amman truce talks (see this Legation's memorandum No. 142/53 of 24th January and previous correspondence). They might on the other hand merely be expressing their dissatisfaction at the Arabs' success in averting the direct negotiations proposed by the United Nations Political Committee's draft resolution. It seems more likely that any premeditated increase in incidents would be for the purpose of inciting Arab retaliation, so that Israel could claim that her security was being threatened and plead for arms and equipment to defend herself.

12. Whatever the origin of the incidents and the motives for them, the result ~~next~~ seems to have been a strengthening of Arab resistance. The Amman newspaper "Falastin" commented that "these criminal attacks can be suppressed only through a common Arab awakening in Cairo, Beirut, Damascus, Amman and Jerusalem". Actually, a common policy is developing so clearly that one could almost suspect the military leaders of the various Arab states of fabricating stories of incidents for this express purpose!

13. The main Arab reaction has been through an increase in their boycott of Israel. In accordance with the various suggestions made by the League's Bureau for the Economic Boycott of Israel during 1952, several measures have recently been taken. The boycott by Syria of firms having branches in Israel was reported in paragraph 4 of this Legation's memorandum No. 1111/52 of 28th November. In Egypt exporters must produce a certificate from the Egyptian Consulate in the country of destination of their goods to the effect that the goods are destined for local consumption and will not be re-exported to Israel; exporters are also required to make a monetary deposit or give a letter of credit from an accredited bank. The Director General of the Egyptian Coastguards Administration, Kaimakan Abdel Aziz, has also disclosed that a committee has been established under his chairmanship to contact Companies with branches in Israel or dealing with it, with the object of explaining that such a situation was considered unfriendly and intolerable by Egypt. In Lebanon, 20 Arab refugees from Palestine were sentenced on 13th December last to six months' imprisonment each for having smuggled Lebanese goods into Israel. In Jordan, the Government on 26th December brought down a bill forbidding trade with Israel in any form and prohibiting the use of Israeli money in Jordan; any traders found guilty of conducting transactions with Israel will, under the terms of the bill, be "black-listed", and signs placed on their premises. In Iraq, exporters to the Mediterranean countries must now produce certificates supported by Iraqi Consulates stating that the exported goods have actually arrived at their country of destination.

14. A further united move in the boycott campaign has been taken in the case of Cyprus, which, together with Greece, Turkey and sometimes Italy, is viewed by Arab States with suspicion as being a potential and actual trader with Israel. During December, 1952 and January, 1953, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Iraq and Syria have implemented the suggestion made by the League Secretariat that, ^{with} trade / Cyprus should be boycotted as a provisional measure until the League can take up the matter of Israeli trade with Cyprus itself. Iraq has in addition placed a similar boycott on trade with Greece. The Lebanese Government is still considering the question of the proposed boycott on

on trade with Cyprus, and has recently been urged by the Beirut Chamber of Commerce to bring into operation such a boycott.

15. The Kingdom of Libya, which has not yet moved to become a member of the League, has also been approached. The Egyptian Regional Bureau for the Economic Boycott of Israel has asked the Libyan Government to stop its trade with Israel, and Egyptian reports claim that the Libyan Government is preparing to act on this suggestion.

16. Moves are also afoot to increase the severity of Egypt's boycott on shipping passing through the Suez Canal to Israel. Since early 1952, only cargoes of "contraband" (defined as war materials and oil) have been subjected to confiscation by the Egyptians (see this Legation's memorandum No. 557/52 of 8th August and previous correspondence), although recently a cargo of meat consigned to Israel in the Norwegian ship, "Remfrost" was confiscated. In an explanatory statement issued in New York on 2nd January by the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations, it was stated that the meat was confiscated because it was believed to have been obtained in the Sudan; however, the Ethiopian Embassy in Cairo had proved that the meat came from Eritrea, and the meat was therefore released. The logic of this Egyptian argument is not apparent. The Regional Iraqi Bureau for the Economic Boycott of Israel in mid-January was reported to have requested Egypt to reimpose the boycott which existed prior to early 1952 on the passage of ships carrying foodstuffs to Israel.

17. The black-listing of ships alleged to be carrying "contraband" to Israel (see Ministerial Despatch No. 5 of 17th August, 1951) has continued, and the Egyptian Bureau for the Economic Boycott of Israel has requested the Customs Administration in Alexandria to add the names of one American and two British tankers to the black-list.

18. Apart from the economic boycott, various Arab States continue to take stringent measures to prevent alleged Jewish activities within their borders. In fact, particularly in those countries which have common frontiers with Israel, any person doing anything out of the ordinary is immediately regarded as a spy. At the end of November last, 8 persons were sentenced to death in Syria for spying, and at the end of December 2 Jordanian soldiers were executed in Amman on similar charges.

19. The various Arab states also indulge in a continuous series of atrocity stories about Israel. The latest of these suggests that the Iraqi Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to protest to the United Nations Secretariat concerning Israeli atrocities against Palestinian Arabs. According to this report, the Iraqi Foreign Ministry claims that the Israelis have admitted that during 1952 they killed 394 Arabs and wounded 227, and that during the first week in 1953, another 19 Arabs were killed and 3 wounded.

20. The country most likely to be affected by border incidents and by Arab counter-activities is, of course, Jordan, which has the longest common frontier with Israel. Since the assassination of King Abdullah in July 1951, it seems to have drifted almost completely back into the Arab camp and away from the possibility of agreement with Israel.

21. Following the recent series of border incidents, Jordan has taken an independent action which may cause considerable embarrassment to the United Kingdom. It was confirmed in London on 2nd February that Jordan had, for the first time, invoked the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty. Presumably, the Treaty has been invoked under Article Two which provides :

" Should any dispute between either high contracting party and a third state produce a

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situation which would involve a risk of rupture with that state, the high contracting parties will concert together with a view to the settlement of the said dispute by peaceful means, in accordance with the provisions of the United Nations' Charter and any other international obligations which may be applicable to the case."

It appears that this Jordanian appeal is being discussed at the Foreign Office with some urgency.

22. The reason for Jordan invoking the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty rather than the 1950 Tripartite Declaration, whose provisions might well cover the present situation, is not yet clear. One obvious explanation is that Jordan, seeking the speediest possible remedy for the alleged situation on the frontier, felt that bilateral consultations between the British and Jordanian Governments would be speedier and less cumbersome than consultations between Britain, America, France and itself, which would be required by invocation of the Tripartite Declaration.

23. It is quite possible that Jordan may have, or may be contemplating, invoking the 1950 Tripartite Declaration as well as the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty. For on the same day as the British Charge d'Affaires in Amman was called by the Jordanian Acting Foreign Minister, the United States Ambassador there was also called to audience.

24. Copies of this memorandum are being forwarded to the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York, the Australian Embassy, Washington, the External Affairs Office, London and the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

In reply quote No. 2/5/1

Memo. No. 334/53

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

1st February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan - Israel Relations

1. Reference is made to those portions of this Legation's memorandum No. 260/53 of 4th February concerning the recrudescence of border incidents between Israel and Jordan since last December, and Jordan's complaint to the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee and invocation of its 1948 Treaty with the United Kingdom

2. There seems little doubt that the various incidents, which appear to have been on a larger scale than any reported between these two countries since the Truce, have been provoked (whether deliberately or not) by Israel. There are two grounds for this belief; first, the joint Israel-Jordan Armistice Committee has named Israel as being the responsible party, and secondly, the United Kingdom has made "strong representations" to Israel but not to Jordan.

3. One of the United Nations Observers has described the attack launched against the Jordanian village of Falma on the night of 28th January (not 30th as was reported in paragraph 9 of the above-mentioned memorandum) as being "a premeditated, concentrated military attack in which weapons appropriate to a full-scale battle were used". According to Amman reports, the attack was led by a force of 150, and early estimates gave casualties as 1 headman of the village killed and about 10 others wounded.

4. The joint Israel-Jordan Armistice Committee did not immediately discuss the Falma incident, since its scope was so considerably greater than the usual frontier incidents. The Committee sent an Investigating Sub-Committee to make on-the-spot enquiries, and on 4th February an extraordinary meeting of the Committee under its Chairman, Colonel Bennet De Ridder of Belgium, considered the collated evidence. The leader of the Jordanian delegation submitted evidence to prove that a fully-armed and equipped regular battalion of the Israeli Army had carried out the attack. A member of the United Nations team of Observers produced exhibits which included weapons left behind by the Jews after the attack. Most of these bore serial numbers and other proofs that they had been made in Israel during 1952. Against this well-armed force, the chief Jordanian delegate pointed out, was a fragile village in which some 12 peace-abiding families (consisting of some 70 souls) dwelt under the protection of about 7 members of the Jordanian Home Guard. The Israeli counter charge was to the effect that the Arabs had infiltrated Israeli territory in the area. Overriding this contention, and Israeli shouts which compelled him later to adjourn the meeting, Colonel De Ridder found that the Israelis had been responsible for the incident.

5. At the same time as the attack was taking place on Falma, a large Israeli force was moving on Rantees village in the Ramallah district (see paragraph 9 of the above-mentioned memo.). The result of the attack was two Jordanians killed, two wounded and one rifle stolen. On 31st January, the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee described this attack as "a flagrant violation

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In reply quote No. 2/5/1

Memo. No. 334/53



RECEIVED
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
16 FEB 1953
175/11/29
CANBERRA

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

10th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan - Israel Relations

1. Reference is made to those portions of this Legation's memorandum No. 260/53 of 4th February concerning the recrudescence of border incidents between Israel and Jordan since last December, and Jordan's complaint to the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee and invocation of its 1948 Treaty with the United Kingdom.

2. There seems little doubt that the various incidents, which appear to have been on a larger scale than any reported between these two countries since the Truce, have been provoked (whether deliberately or not) by Israel. There are two grounds for this belief; first, the joint Israel-Jordan Armistice Committee has named Israel as being the responsible party, and secondly, the United Kingdom has made "strong representations" to Israel but not to Jordan.

3. One of the United Nations Observers has described the attack launched against the Jordanian village of Falma on the night of 28th January (not 30th as was reported in paragraph 9 of the above-mentioned memorandum) as being "a premeditated, concentrated military attack in which weapons appropriate to a full-scale battle were used". According to Amman reports, the attack was led by a force of 150, and early estimates gave casualties as 1 headman of the village killed and about 10 others wounded.

4. The joint Israel-Jordan Armistice Committee did not immediately discuss the Falma incident, since its scope was so considerably greater than the usual frontier incidents. The Committee sent an Investigating Sub-Committee to make on-the-spot enquiries, and on 4th February an extraordinary meeting of the Committee under its Chairman, Colonel Bennet De Ridder of Belgium, considered the collated evidence. The leader of the Jordanian delegation submitted evidence to prove that a fully-armed and equipped regular battalion of the Israeli Army had carried out the attack. A member of the United Nations team of Observers produced exhibits which included weapons left behind by the Jews after the attack. Most of these bore serial numbers and other proofs that they had been made in Israel during 1952. Against this well-armed force, the chief Jordanian delegate pointed out, was a fragile village in which some 12 peace-abiding families (consisting of some 70 souls) dwelt under the protection of about 7 members of the Jordanian Home Guard. The Israeli counter charge was to the effect that the Arabs had infiltrated Israeli territory in the area. Overriding this contention, and Israeli shouts which compelled him later to adjourn the meeting, Colonel De Ridder found that the Israelis had been responsible for the incident.

5. At the same time as the attack was taking place on Falma, a large Israeli force was moving on Rentees village in the Ramallah district (see paragraph 9 of the above-mentioned memo.). The result of the attack was two Jordanians killed, two wounded, one rifle stolen. On 31st January, the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee described this attack as "a flagrant violation

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of the Truce", and warned the Israeli authorities to "stop their repeated aggressions" and to return the stolen weapon.

6. While the Committee was thus condemning Israel as responsible for the attacks, the United Kingdom, whose aid had been called for by Jordan under the 1948 Anglo-Jordanian Treaty, was coming quite independently to the same opinion. After four days of urgent investigations by the United Kingdom Foreign Office following the Jordanian invocation of the Treaty at the end of January, the Foreign Office on 5th February summoned the Israeli Ambassador, Mr. Eliahu Elath, to hear what was reportedly "a forcible expression of views" on the incidents delivered by Sir James Bowker, Superintending Under-Secretary for the Eastern and African Department. At the same time, what were described by a Foreign Office Spokesman as "strong representations" were made to the Israeli Government by the British Ambassador in Tel Aviv, Sir Francis Evans, acting on instructions from London. The British representations stressed that Israel must take "all" steps in its power to restore tranquility and prevent incidents along the frontier.

6. This was clearly an outright condemnation of Israel, since no remarks comparable to those addressed to the Israeli Ambassador or the Israeli Government were addressed to the Jordanian Government. The British authorities seem therefore to be discounting Israeli counter-claims concerning the incidents. On 5th February, the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mosche Sharett, summoned the British, American and French Diplomatic envoys in Tel Aviv, and is believed to have explained to them what is described by Israelis as "the menace of infiltration", this being part of an alleged "soft policy" regarding Jordanians who cross the border for thefts, murder and robbery. Mosche Sharett is believed to have appealed to the three Diplomats to do what they could to ease the disturbed situation on the borders.

7. In contrast with its strong approach to Israel, the United Kingdom merely asked the Jordanian Government to do its utmost to ease the tension, at the same time declaring that she was prepared to abide by the Anglo-Jordanian Treaty. This represented a complete victory for Jordan, and the Jordanian Minister of Defence, Anwar Nuseibeh, stated: "I welcome the British declaration, which I hope will ease the tension artificially created by Israel along the Jordan-Israel Armistice demarcation line". The United Kingdom has thus emerged from what was a very difficult position with Arab praise; Israel's view, by contrast, will no doubt be less favourable.

8. The attitudes of the United States or of France, the other two parties to the Tripartite Declaration of 1950, are not yet known. Jordan seems to have ignored France entirely, and if this is so it would no doubt be due to the Arab hostility to France over Tunisia and Morocco. An effort has been made, however, to win over the United States. On 31st January, the United States Ambassador to Jordan, Mr. Joseph Green, was received by the Minister of Defence (see paragraph 23 of the above-mentioned memo) and conducted over the Palma area. The Minister of Defence declared to the United States Ambassador that it was America's duty, as a party to the 1950 Tripartite Declaration, to take decisive measures to stop the Israeli attacks.

9. Although the situation had been elevated to one of world importance, the border incidents did not cease after 28th January. On 2nd February, an Israeli goods train from Haifa passing near the Jordanian town of Quilqilia was wrecked by a mine, there being no casualties. On that night Jewish forces armed with automatic weapons and heavy mortars assaulted the town of Quilqilia, and were repulsed, according to the Jordanian communique, by the Jordanian Home Guard. The Jordanian delegation to the joint Armistice Committee asked for an immediate extraordinary meeting

primarily to discuss this incident. Before the Committee on 5th February, the Israelis complained that Arabs had mined their train; the Jordanians however claimed that the mining was the work of disaffected Jews, and that in any case the Israeli attack on the town had been launched a full hour before the alleged destruction of the train. A majority decision of the Committee attributed the mining of the train to "persons unknown", and yet again found the Israelis responsible for the Quilqilia attack, formally listing it as a violation of the Armistice terms and formally drawing Israeli attention to her duty to prevent a recurrence.

10. At this session of the Committee, the Jordanian delegation also raised three other pressing matters; first, repeated Jewish violations of Jordanian air-space by military aircraft; secondly Israeli mine laying in no-man's-land and the demilitarised zone of Jerusalem; and thirdly Israeli armed assaults on the Galilee villages of Semou and Beit Hua on 1st February.

11. The exasperated Amman daily newspaper "Al Difa" appealed to the Government to invoke the Arab League Security Pact, which would rally the entire Arab world to Jordan's side.

12. Instead, the Jordanian Government took a first step on 8th February by sending a 24-hour ultimatum to the United Nations Observers' Corps demanding the immediate evacuation of Jewish families (consisting of some 130 people) which had on the previous day squatted in the former Arab Teachers Training College buildings in the demilitarised area of Mount Scopus. The Jordanian Government stated that it was the duty of the Observers' Corps to compel the Jewish families to leave Mount Scopus in the interest of peace between Jordan and Israel. The ultimatum declared that if the Observers' Corps failed to evacuate the Jews, Jordan would take "satisfactory and definite steps" to protect her own interests. On 9th February, rumours spread that the Arab Legion had occupied the Mount Scopus area, but these rumours were dispelled by an official Jordanian announcement later in the day to the effect that Israel had agreed to the evacuation of the 130 odd civilian Israeli squatters within the next few days.

13. Even while this ultimatum was under consideration, a further incident took place. At one time, it was feared that the Arab Legion would have to be called in to intervene. The incident occurred on the morning of 8th February when a party of Jews, under the protection of two armoured cars, entered no-man's-land in an area near the village of Latroun and, in the manner so frequently adopted in the past, commenced to plough up the land. The Jordanian Government immediately called upon the Observers' Corps demanding the cessation of the ploughing operations, and warning that if the Jews had not withdrawn by midday, Jordanian troops would be ordered to open fire. The Jordanians further pointed out that aggression against this area was considered as a direct attack on the authority of the United Nations. No reports of fighting have yet come to hand, and it therefore appears that the Israelis may have withdrawn peacefully from the no-man's-land area.

14. In paragraph 11 of the above-mentioned memorandum, it was suggested that the main reason for any premeditated increase in border incidents by Israel would be for the purpose of inciting Arab retaliation in order to allow Israel to claim that her security was being threatened and plead for arms and equipment to defend herself. The Jordanian Minister of Defence apparently shares this view, which he explained almost in the above terms on 30th January. On 5th February, the Jordanian Government gave its support to this view, when in an official statement, it declared that Jordan would not commit any act of aggression, in order to avoid affording the Jews any chance to win sympathy and ammunition from abroad.

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15. If this was indeed the Israeli motive, then their plans seem to have miscarried sadly. Moreover, the continuation of incidents after the joint Jordan-Israel Armistice Committee and the United Kingdom had delivered their verdicts against Israel can only be regarded as folly. It seems hardly possible that both the joint Armistice Committee and the United Kingdom have been hood-winked by any diabolical Jordanian plan to enlist their sympathies.

16. In any case, the net result of the continuation of incidents has been, as was outlined in the above-mentioned memorandum, a consolidation of Arab opposition. A further consolidation has taken place during the last few days. It will be recalled that Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Lebanon have an agreement for the offering of mutual assistance in the case of anyone of them being attacked by Israel. Already Egyptian and Syrian representatives have visited the disturbed frontier area. The Egyptian Ambassador to Syria, Major-General Aly Naguib, brother of the Egyptian Premier, inspected the area on 4th and 6th February, and declared that the aim of all the Arab States was to restore Palestine to the Arab refugees. The senior Syrian delegate to the joint Syrian-Israel Armistice Committee, Colonel Jéid, arrived yesterday in Jerusalem to make an inspection of the area. Iraq, which is outside the scope of the agreement of those states having common frontiers with Israel, is said to have promised Jordan military support in the case of any emergency during the present tense situation.

17. Copies of this memorandum are being forwarded to the Australian Mission to the United Nations, New York, the Australian Embassy, Washington, the External Affairs Office, London and the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

SAVINGRAM.

INK

O.1587

Sent: 13th February, 1953.
1115

TO:

Australian Legation,
TEL AVIV.

Savingram 2.

CONFIDENTIAL.

1. United Kingdom sources advise us of mounting tension during last six months between Israel and Jordan culminating in recent shelling of two Transjordan villages.
2. Have also been advised that United Kingdom Ambassador in Tel Aviv has been instructed to emphasise to Israel Government grave concern at these developments for which the United Kingdom Government hold Israel primarily responsible.
3. United Kingdom Ambassador Amman instructed to advise Jordan Government of representations made to Israel Government.
4. Glad of any information you may have on subject.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A. (175/11/29)
" " " DEFENCE.
P.M's.

13th February, 1953.

SEC A/Ss WEST E GEN @ PI

Mr. H. Smith
File Smith
Seen R.H.

Mr. R. H.
R/S with file
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DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *The London Times*

File No. *175/11/29*

Published at

Date *12/2/53*

JORDAN-ISRAEL FRONTIER

ARMISTICE SETTLEMENTS
A FIRST STAGE

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, FEB. 11

Reports reaching Israel of foreign reaction to the statement given to your Correspondent by the Israel Chief of General Staff, Major General Makleff, and published in *The Times* last Friday, have caused some concern here. It is pointed out authoritatively that General Makleff's remarks on the "irrational frontier" have been misrepresented and that his references were to the fact that the armistice settlements had been only the first stage in the final peace settlement and that it had been recognized then that both parties would subsequently agree upon minor rectifications to the boundary. This certainly was the impression given to your Correspondent by General Makleff, who emphasized that while hasty drawing of the frontier at the armistice had left causes of friction, a final settlement could be only by negotiation.

General Makleff commented this morning on Lieutenant-General Glubb's statement to *The Times*, which was fully reported in the Hebrew Press. General Makleff said that General Glubb's category of innocent Arab infiltrators hardly exists any longer. To-day almost invariably infiltrators were organized as armed plundering bands, he said. Under the terms of the agreement the authorities of each country had accepted responsibility for keeping their own nationals, including civilians, on their side of the border, and Israel desired only the performance of that responsibility.



In reply quote No. 1/1/2/8

Memo no. 156/53.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

11 FEB 1953

27th January, 1953.

175/11/29
CANBERRA

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Relations between Israel and Jordan: a border
clash in the "Little Triangle" area - near
Tulkarm.

Will you please see my memorandum no. 133/53 dated
22nd January, 1953, sent by last bag.

2. The validity of the Agreement between Israel and Jordan, of which I made mention in my memorandum under reference, expired on January 21st, 1953. On January 23rd, the Hashemite Broadcasting Service announced that, on January 22nd, a detachment of Israel troops penetrated two kilometres (1½ miles) into Jordan territory near Tulkarm (map reference: 35 5' x 32 22' N.) and were engaged by the Jordan National Guard. One Israel soldier was killed and several wounded. The wireless announcement said that "the Israeli troops withdrew leaving the body of the dead soldier which was later viewed, two kilometres inside Jordan territory, by United Nations Observers."

3. The Israeli version of this clash is that an Israel Army detachment, when on patrol in the vicinity of Falama (south of Tulkarm), encountered an enemy (Jordan) force which was pursued. The Israelis admitted that one Israeli soldier was killed.

4. The Near East Broadcasting Service, Cyprus (British operated and controlled) also reported this incident - its version of the affair was the same as the Jordanian. It added, however, that the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation is "greatly concerned" over the tension between Israel and Jordan arising out of the increasing number and seriousness of the clashes along the Armistice line.

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5. On the Jerusalem front, the Israelis allege that, on January 25th, Arab marauders numbering eight crossed the lines and stole a quantity of irrigation pipes valued at £300 (Israel). The Jews allege that this is the third raid of its kind within the past week, and that, on one of the earlier occasions, an Israeli watchman was shot and killed.

O.C.W. Fuhrman
O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

CONFIDENTIAL
Ref 12/149
GD:LN

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM
CANBERRA

10th February, 1953

Sir,

.. I am directed by the High Commissioner to transmit the enclosed message about the recent tension between Israel and Jordan.

The High Commissioners in London for Canada, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have been informed.

Two copies of this letter with the enclosure are being sent to the Department of External Affairs.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your obedient servant

(Sgd) G. DAVEY

The Secretary,
Prime Minister's Department,
CANBERRA

W. Desmond

2 copies to UN
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Copy already sent to (1) Secy
(2) @ Sec GR

CONFIDENTIAL

ISRAEL - JORDAN TENSION

There has been mounting tension between Israel and Jordan over the past six months and this has culminated in the recent shelling by Israel forces of two Transjordan villages.

2. In the view of the United Kingdom authorities the Israelis are primarily responsible for the present tension but Jordan cannot escape some of the blame. Her fault appears to lie mainly on her failure to prevent infiltration into Israel.

3. Both sides have made representations to the United Kingdom Government. The Jordan Government have also invoked the Anglo-Jordan Treaty (please see United Kingdom Government's telegram H. No.76 of 13th March, 1948 to Australian Government).

4. The United Kingdom Government have instructed the United Kingdom Ambassador in Tel Aviv to emphasise to the Israel Government its grave concern at these developments and to make it clear that in the United Kingdom view much of the responsibility for a potentially explosive situation rests with the Israel Government.

5. Simultaneously the United Kingdom Ambassador in Amman has been instructed to inform the Jordan Government of the representations made to the Israel Government. He will say that the Jordan Government may rest assured that the United Kingdom Government will honor their obligation under the Anglo-Jordan Treaty. In the present instance however the United Kingdom Government believe that this is not a case where the Anglo-Jordan Treaty need be invoked and that the tension can best be lowered through the Jordan-Israel mixed armistice commission. In the meantime the United Kingdom Government confidently expect that the Jordan Government will avoid any action which might increase the tension of the Israel-Jordan border and that they will in particular do all they can to prevent infiltration into Israel.

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE UNITED KINGDOM,
CANBERRA, A. C. T.

10th February, 1953.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper.....

File No.....

Issued at.....

Date.....

TENSE ISRAELI JORDAN MOVES

TEL AVIV, Monday.

The Israeli Cabinet held an extraordinary meeting here to-day to consider measures to meet the tense situation on the Israeli-Jordan border.

Israeli newspapers to-day quoted a Jordan radio report that Jordan's Defence Minister, Amwar Nuseibeh, had handed an ultimatum to the U.N. truce supervision officials in Jerusalem.

It said that Jordan would feel herself free to act as she thought fit unless the supervisors adopted satisfactory measures to evacuate Israeli civilians who had penetrated into the buildings of the former Arab college.

Name of Paper

Published at

File No. 175/11/29

Date 9/2/53

INFILTRATION INTO ISRAEL

GENERAL GLUBB ON FRONTIER TENSION

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, FEB. 8

Lieutenant-General J. B. Glubb, Chief of General Staff of the Arab Legion, in a statement to your Correspondent, replied to charges by Israelis that Arab infiltration into Israel was the cause of present tension on the frontiers. "It is true that some Jordanians enter Israel illegally," he said. "Many of them do so, however, without any criminal intent. Israel has cut off Jordan from Gaza and Egypt, for example. There are still families which are divided between the two countries, and there is no legal means by which a Jordanian can reach his relatives in Gaza unless he is rich enough to pay for an air passage. He accordingly walks, crossing Israel territory by night.

"There are also many Arab families living in Israel territory, particularly in Galilee, who have relatives in Jordan. There is no legal means by which they can see each other, so they walk across the border at night. Other infiltrators are refugees from Israel, who go back at night to see or to recover their property, or to pick the fruit of their own gardens. Some infiltrators go to Israel to steal. This, while deeply regrettable, is not to be wondered at, because one-third of the people now living in Jordan are destitute refugees."

Nearly all the people who infiltrated into Israel, he said, were refugees who lived formerly in the land now held by Israel and were driven from their homes by the Jews. Every possible measure had been taken by Jordan to prevent infiltration. Half the people in prison in west Jordan were there on charges of infiltrating into Israel. The Israel-Jordan border was as long as the distance from London to Carlisle. In a country with half a million vagrant refugees it was not possible to prevent individuals from crossing such a line during the night.

POLICE COOPERATION

Jordan has been unable to persuade Israel to cooperate. General Glubb said that an example of this uncooperative Israel attitude was her denunciation last month of the system of cooperation between local police officers which had been in force for a year, and that she was now complaining of the deterioration of the frontier situation since that system ended although she had herself been found guilty by the mixed armistice commission of three most serious breaches committed on Jordan soil (two of them against the same village) by her regular forces.

Israel, he said, preferred that cases of infiltration should be dealt with through the United Nations, where she could make political capital out of them. It was hopeless to deal with petty thieving and passport offences through diplomatic channels. The Israelis refused to cooperate with the Jordanians to prevent crime on the frontier. Every now and then their regular army crossed the border and launched a set-piece attack on some Arab village occupied by a few poor farmers and labourers, and men, women, and children were massacred.

VILLAGE ATTACKED

"In the recent attack on Falama village, Jews used a battalion group against a village containing only 20 men. The attack was preceded by heavy bombardment with mortars, as though they were attacking a battalion defensive position instead of a tiny hamlet of 12 cottages. Nearly all the ensuing Arab casualties were women and children, the families of poor labourers."

In international practice every country was responsible itself for preventing persons from entering its frontiers illegally. Yet, he added, Israel tried to blame Jordan for every Jordanian who entered Israel illegally. There was no precedent in any other country for such a claim. Asked why, in his opinion, the Jews employed such methods, the General replied: "During the mandate the Jews constantly made use of terrorist methods. There seems to be something in the psychology of the Jews of Israel which impels them to resort to terrorist acts, rather than to accept cooperation."

Name of Paper

Published at

File No.

Date

Mistrust Across the Frontier

Clashes on the frontier between Israel and Jordan are all too common. Lately they have become serious enough to cause anxious concern in this country, which has friendly relations with both. Mistrust between the two countries is the chief cause, but another is the way in which the present frontier was drawn when the Security Council insisted on fighting being stopped. It follows neither natural features nor demographical limits and marks only the line between the two sides when the armistice agreements were concluded. It severs Arab villages from their land; it cuts off their water supply; it encourages them to make common cause with refugees rendered desperate by hunger or by desire for revenge. It is long and difficult to patrol effectively. So it offers full scope both for trouble-makers and for criminals, some of them, like the hashish smugglers, highly organized.

The trouble is that relations between the two Governments are bad. Most of the raids could be quickly dealt with by the two police forces if Jerusalem and Amman were really willing to work together. Israel complains that since November the attitude of Jordan has been more and more uncooperative. An effort was made to establish better working relations by an agreement signed on December 30, but trouble continued and the Israelis threatened to denounce the agreement unless Jordan released some people who had crossed the border in error. In reply, Jordan herself denounced the agreement. The Amman Government accuses Israel of deliberately violating the frontier with regular forces and of indulging in acts of terrorism against ordinary villagers and denies the accusation that raids into Israel territory are encouraged. Both GLUBB PASHA, Chief of Staff of the Arab Legion, and MAJOR-GENERAL MAKLEFF, Chief of the Israel General Staff, have recently condemned the present frontiers as unworkable, but each maintains that his own forces are behaving with restraint. MAJOR-GENERAL MAKLEFF says that the frontier is not properly patrolled on the Jordan side, and that the main sources of trouble are the partisan activities of the Palestinians inside Jordan and the irresponsibility of the Arab National Guard. GLUBB PASHA contends that most of the raids could perfectly well be dealt with by the police, instead of being made the occasion for punitive expeditions by heavily armed

Israel forces. Incidents may be unavoidable, so long as there are Arab refugees along the border, but at bottom the problem is a question of confidence, which in different circumstances could be settled simply enough by these two soldiers working together.

Name of Paper

Published at

File No.

Date

175/11/29

6/2/53

JORDAN FRONTIER INCIDENTS

BRITISH CONCERN EXPRESSED

FROM OUR DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Mr. Elath, the Israel Ambassador in London, was requested to call at the Foreign Office yesterday, where he saw Sir James Bowker, Assistant Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office, who is responsible for Middle Eastern questions.

It was learnt later that strong representations were made underlining the grave concern and disapproval with which the British Government views the recent incidents on the Israel-Jordan border, in particular the shelling of the two Arab villages Falama and Rantis on January 23.

These representations were made to reinforce the similar representations which Sir Francis Evans, the British Ambassador to Israel, had also been instructed to make. It was emphasized that all possible measures should be taken to restore orderly conditions along the frontier and to avoid such incidents in future.

At the same time the Jordan Government, who appealed to the British Government under the terms of the Anglo-Transjordan Treaty of 1948, have been assured that Britain stands

by its obligations to protect the Jordan frontier, and also by the tripartite western declaration of 1950, in support of the *status quo*. The representations made yesterday were not made, however, as a direct result of the Jordan Government's appeal to the 1948 treaty. The British Government, it was pointed out, are interested in maintaining stable and peaceful conditions in the area, as was demonstrated when they joined in the tripartite declaration in 1950.

The present representations were made, therefore, because of the incidents themselves rather than because the Anglo-Transjordan Treaty had been invoked.

TALKS IN TEL AVIV

BRITAIN, FRANCE, AND U.S. REPRESENTED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, FEB. 5

Sir Francis Evans, British Ambassador, Mr. Monnett Davis, American Ambassador, and M. Yves Debrouse, French Chargé d'Affaires, called this morning on Mr. Sharett, Israel Foreign Minister, at his request, to discuss the present tension along the Israel-Jordan frontier.

The fact that representatives of the signatories to the tripartite declaration of 1950 were called is taken here to suggest the possibility of action within the terms of the declaration, which was intended to help to preserve stability and the *status quo* in the region, with the object of preventing a further deterioration of frontier conditions and restoring cooperative arrangements for border security.

Major-General Makleff, Chief of the Israel General Staff, said in a statement to your Correspondent that the situation had grown much worse during the past four months, but "the deterioration has not been of a military nature." Border clashes, which had developed alarmingly, had been, in the main, between armed Arab bands of marauders, accompanied in many cases by members of the National Guard—a volunteer frontier service raised in Jordan—and Israel settlers, police units, and border patrols.

MARAUDERS' INCURSIONS

There had been occasional engagements between groups of Israel soldiers and men of the Arab Legion, but on the whole it was the absence of the Legion, or of any other disciplined force charged to keep order, which had made possible the organized and constant incursions of marauders and irregulars.

"It is a bad, irrationally drawn frontier, never meant to last," General Makleff declared. "It is bad for us and bad for Jordan, and involves unnecessary hardship for many of the settled Arab communities along the frontier whose villages are severed from their lands, and who make common cause with the refugees. These Palestine Arabs have been left against the frontier with little to do but sulk and form themselves into marauding bands, and have been encouraged in this by the authorities in the area, most of whom are Palestinians and feel no loyalty towards the Government in Amman."

The Chief of Staff produced charts showing a monthly average of 98 acts of banditry, involving heavy losses of cattle, irrigation pipes, electric wiring, and other equipment. Eight hundred head of cattle were stolen last year from frontier settlements and, according to information received in Jerusalem, had been sold openly in Hebron and Nablus. Stolen equipment was being sold as far away as Alexandria.

General Makleff said there was evidence of official connivance, and even complicity, in well organized and heavily armed forays, and in such acts of sabotage as mining railway tracks and roads. This made it very difficult for the machinery of the mixed armistice commission to work effectively.

The roots of the trouble were the grotesque nature of the frontier itself; the presence of large and discontented Arab refugee communities, and the irresponsibility of the Arabs' National Guard, which was not subject to proper control and which conceived its purpose as one of creating tension rather than of preventing it. Jordan, he asserted, had exploited mistakes in the armistice agreement to the limit.

SECRET

175/11/29
COPY

Secret.

Australian External Affairs Office,
Australia House,
London, W.C.2.

5th February, 1953.

AJE/JB
3/12/39

Memo No. 107/53

MEMORANDUM for :

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Arab-Israeli Relations.

Further to my memorandum No. 99/53 of 3rd February, 1953, I enclose extracts of further telegrams dated 2nd and 3rd February from U.K. Embassies Tel Aviv and Amman and British Middle East Office in connection with present tension in Arab Israeli relations.

(signed) A. J. Eastman

(A. J. Eastman)
for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

by + done on 17/5/11/20
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CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

Confidential.

The following is an extract from a telegram from Tel Aviv to the Foreign Office, dated 3rd February, 1953.

No.22.

"Israel-Jordan Frontier.

Provisionally I interpret Israel policy as follows. Having abandoned hopes of settlement with Arab states through assistance from Western Powers and United Nations, and faced with their increasing hostility and solidarity as exemplified by the intensified distinguished and recent hostile statements by Neguib, Shishakly and Nashashibi, they may have decided that the tough policy or reprisals against Jordan, i.e. pursuing marauders to villages which harbour them and attacking those villages, will (1) encourage Jordan frontier authorities and border villages to control infiltration, (2) persuade Jordan Government that to take a leading part in hostile policy of the Arab league can produce uncomfortable results, and that there is something to be said for accommodation with Israel.

2. I would propose seeing Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs and saying that Her Majesty's Government as allies of Jordan and signatories of the tripartite declaration must disapprove strongly of the policy of organized military retaliation, which the Israeli Government are evidently conducting. I would adduce arguments in Baker's letter to Chadwick of 24th January and others which have occurred to me. Mr. Sharett's probable reply will be that Israelis over the past year tried to cooperate with the Jordanians over the frontier control but that mounting figures of infiltration, as reported in my telegram No. 18, and publicly expressed Jordan hostility have left them no alternative but to pursue their present policy.

3. It would greatly increase the effect of my demarche if I could say that Her Majesty's Government were taking action similar to State Department's request to Jordan Charge d'Affaires, reported in paragraph 4 of Washington telegram No.:202, and were asking the Jordan Government, on whom Israelis understandably assume British influence is decisive, to take effective measures to control infiltration and to moderate their hostility towards Israel."

SECRET

C O P Y

Secret.

The following is an extract from the British Middle East Office (Fayid) to the Foreign Office, dated 2nd February, 1953.

No. 72.

"Israeli/Jordan Incidents.

Since I sent my telegram No. 68, the C. in C. has received further personal telegrams from Glubb giving details of the Israeli attacks on the two Jordan villages and stressing the gravity of the situation that has arisen. If Glubb's account of the brutality and deliberateness of the attacks is substantially correct, as it presumably must be, it seems urgent to express our abhorrence in no uncertain manner, apart from the risk that repetition may lead to a virtual state of frontier hostilities.

2. The C. in C. has strong sympathies with Glubb in his present difficult position and is anxious that everything should be done to maintain the confidence of the people of Jordan in the Arab Legion and ourselves as an effective shield against Israeli aggression. He is prepared to visit Jordan himself, as suggested in Amman telegram No. 132, if this course is considered expedient.

3. Glubb in addition has made certain general assertions to which it is more difficult to give entire credence. He contends for example, that our prestige in Jordan has in consequence of these incidents sunk to nil; that feeling against us is bitter and that there is open discussion as to whether it would not be better for Jordan to draw closer to the United States and denounce the British Treaty. I have no doubt that there is much exaggeration in these and similar statements but think that you should know that they are being made."

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL.

The following is an extract from a telegram from Amman to the Foreign Office, dated 3rd February, 1953.

No. 52.

"Information available, assessed by trained British personnel whose good faith cannot be called into question, indicates that the incident reported in my telegram No.43 took place in entirely different circumstances from any previous ones. Contrary to the Israeli Government's contention that there had been no (repeat no) previous deliberate (grp. undes.) along the frontier, and infiltration statistics show no increase above normal. What occurred seems to have been carefully planned assaults by Israel military forces on two small villages one of which contains only 10 families. Attack was preceded (as never previously) by artillery barrages and apparently by air reconnaissance. Only possible explanation appears to be that in last sentence of paragraph 4 of Tel Aviv telegram under reference.

2. As a result of these (grp. undes.) incidents the Arab Legion have now moved two further battalions to the area between Jerusalem and Jenin, which, if Israel contention in paragraph 2 of Tel Aviv telegram under reference is correct, should have the effect of decreasing infiltration, though Israeli denunciation of local commander's agreement must obviously reduce the effectiveness of control.

3. On the other hand an apparently officially inspired article in Israel newspaper, Jerusalem Post, of 2nd February reinforced by a violent leading article appears to be designed to prepare the ground for further Israel aggression. I understand in fact that last night there was an Israel bombardment of police post at Qalqiya."

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

Memo No. 130/53.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

23rd January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Continued deterioration in the relations
between Israel and Jordan.

Relations between Israel and Jordan continue to worsen. I have so many times found it necessary to report in this strain on the relations between Israel and Jordan, that I fear the Department must wonder how long the tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier can continue without a major outbreak of hostilities. That, too, is a matter of wonderment to foreign observers in Israel by whom the growing tension on the frontier is watched with grave apprehension from day-to-day lest some incident or other might precipitate another trial of strength in battle between the Israel Army and the Arab Legion.

2. It would be entirely wrong to minimise or deny the seriousness of the situation - a situation which, somehow or other, has miraculously not yet produced a major clash-at-arms between Israel and Jordan: though Israel and Jordan have each provoked the other by hostile acts and by minor and major acts of aggression and hostile incursions into the territory of the other for the best part of four years. If the situation were not so serious it would be Gilbertian. But the Israel/Jordan frontier situation has deteriorated progressively during the past twelve months until today an open rupture between the two countries continues to be averted only by the tenuous moral restraint which the presence on-the-spot of the Mixed Armistice Commission appears to exert. Neither side, it is true, pay much heed to the Commission; both sides impugn its impartiality as they do the individual members thereof and the United Nations Chief-of-Staff: General William Riley; both sides, Israel and Jordan, deliberately and nonchalantly flout the Commission's decisions whenever it suits them to do so; they have, in fact, defied the Commission and set its authority at naught. Yet, it does appear that the tenuity of United Nations influence in this area is still a deterring factor. The Jordanians also play up the 1950 British, United States and French guarantee of Jordan's frontier. They gamble on the mentality of the Jews: that Israel would think twice about defying this guarantee by crossing the border to engage the Arab Legion in full-scale battle. The Jordanians also know that the Arab Legion would be no match for the Israel Army and that, if the latter took the field against Jordan, Jordan would be over-run and under complete Israeli domination and occupation in a matter of days - certainly before effective aid could be afforded by any of the other near-by Arab States. The

CS
Wm Low N 8/11/53

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Israelis for their part are, I think, to some extent deterred by the 1950 British, United States and French guarantee of Jordan's frontier, but the opinion of foreign service attaches in Israel is that, while this guarantee acts as a deterrent, the Government of Israel would pay little heed to that guarantee if it had adequate stock-piles of foodstuffs, ammunition and replacements to maintain its Army in the field for any length of time. Well informed opinion is that, at its present potential war strength, the Israel Army could not be maintained in full-scale combat for more than four to six months - by which time the entire striking force of the Arab world, aided probably by the U.S.S.R. and the satellite countries, could and would be mobilized against the Israelis who would stand a very good chance of being driven back to the shores of the Mediterranean - not because of inferior fighting qualities, but on account of their inability to keep up front-line supplies of war stores, foodstuffs and equipment. Briefly, that is the situation, which, as I have said elsewhere, has worsened badly during the past few months.

3. The deterioration about which I have written follows diplomatic activity by the Arab States against Israel at the United Nations General Assembly and the meeting held in Amman last November of representatives of the four Arab States on the Mixed Armistice Commission; also, from the fact that the U.S.S.R. is making a bid for the favour of Islam.

4. The purpose of the Amman meeting was to strengthen each of the M.A.C.'s in their attitude towards Israel and to try to prevent any of the Arab countries from making local agreements with Israel, which could be construed as peaceful and non-hostile. The feeling engendered by the meeting has been shown by recent statements in the Jordan Parliament against the Armistice Agreement itself, and requests by the head of the Lebanese delegation to the M.A.C. for the deletion from the record of phrases by the United Nations Chairman such as "a co-operative spirit was shown at the meeting," or that the "chairman appreciated the feeling of goodwill shown by the Lebanese delegation."

5. General William Riley has recently been attacked by the Arab press for his efforts to achieve a peaceful atmosphere, and the propaganda machine has been stepped up in the Arab States, with press conferences given to explain the new Arab attitude to the local and foreign press, as well as activity among foreign diplomats in the Arab capitals.

6. In Jordan, the head of the M.A.C. delegation claimed that Israel had broken its agreements by smuggling arms to the Mt. Scopus area and threatened to stop all Israel convoys from going to the University and Hadassah hospital area.

7. In recent weeks, this war of words by the Jordanians has developed into armed attacks by Jordan soldiers. Three incidents have been cited by the Israelis. Near Badrus, in the neighbourhood of Bet Naballa, an Israel Defence Forces patrol was attacked from prepared positions, while other patrols were attacked in the Bet Surik area and in the district southeast of Hebron, all in Israel territory. On the latter occasion, an Israel section was attacked by a Jordan section. When the fire was returned

3.

two more Jordan sections were called up, but retired when Israel reinforcements arrived. There were no losses in these attacks, but they are taken as indicative of a stiffening of the Jordanians' hostile attitude.

8. In May 1952, an agreement was signed between Israel and Jordan, whereby efforts would be made to reduce the incidence of marauding. This agreement was brought up to date and amended by fresh clauses on December 29th, 1952, with the latest additions which were due to come into force on January 1st, 1953. The main new clause was one calling for the return of any person found to have crossed the border by mistake after a short interrogation, which the Israel authorities understood to be a matter of two or three hours. The underlying purpose of the new agreement was to show goodwill by both sides, with the benefit of the doubt being given in unclear cases. Four days after the new clauses came into effect, three soldiers and a civilian driving instructor, together with their vehicle, were taken prisoner by Jordan forces. Nothing was said by the Jordanians and only on January 6th did two Israel civilians who had been returned by the Jordan authorities after crossing the lines by mistake report that while in prison in Zerka they had seen the three soldiers and the driving instructor.

9. An appeal was lodged with Colonel Bennet de Ridder, the Belgian Chairman of the Israel-Jordan M.A.C. for his intervention and the return of the men. He promised to reply by January 8th and was informed that if the Jordan reply was negative, Israel would regard the agreement as broken by the Jordanians and therefore void. When his only reply was that the matter was "still under investigation" Israel gave the requisite two-weeks notice of abrogation of the agreement, which lapsed on January 22nd, 1953. The four Israelis have now been in prison in Jordan for 16 days.

10. An urgent appeal was lodged with M. Henri Vigier, Senior United Nations official in Palestine, on January 12th, for his intervention in view of the worsening situation between Israel and Jordan. It is felt in Israel that Colonel de Ridder is too vacillating in his approach to urgent problems, unlike other United Nations chairmen of M.A.C.'s who have immediately taken action on such occasions.

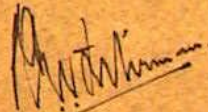
11. That marauding is a planned policy of the Jordan authorities carried out by Jordan soldiers in many cases, has been proved, by documents found on the body of a man killed on Israel soil; by the uniform, with distinguished badges removed, found on the body of a Jordan soldier shot by an Israel watchman of a border settlement; and by marks on the bodies and clothes of members of the Jordan civil guards, a semi-military body, also killed near Kalkilya recently. I am told authoritatively by Israeli Army officers that marauding has recently increased following the release of prisoners from Jordan jails, who were thus encouraged to infiltrate into Israel, and by the Jordan police refusing to return stolen property, despite agreements to this effect. Excuses given have included statements that the stolen cows were required as "court exhibits" or that a farmer had bought the stolen animals in good faith and therefore could not be punished by having the animals taken away from him without compensation and returned to Israel. My informant also said that Jordan soldiers on the border are being paid by marauders for protection when crossing and recrossing the lines, promising to give covering fire if necessary.

12. While the majority of infiltrators from Jordan work in organized bands and are well-armed, with special arrangements for marketing their loot, many of the marauders are women and children sent across the border by their husbands or fathers. Although the value of what these marauders can steal is small, the danger is great. They are in danger of running across an Israel patrol.

13. In view of Israeli proof of the close link between the marauders and what the Israelis describe as "a planned State policy," the Israel authorities have felt that it is impossible to continue with an agreement already broken by the Jordanians, which would protect marauders. The danger of increased marauding is foreseen, and Israel authorities feel that they must prepare to take active defence.

14. Following this series of incidents, the senior Jordan delegate on the Mixed Armistice Commission gave a press interview on January 19th, 1953 which was referred to in the Hashemite wireless news-bulletin that evening. I heard that broadcast which reported that, in future, Jordan will refuse to sign any further subsidiary agreement with Israel. The Jordan delegate scouted the Israel charges and counter-charged Israel with violating the same agreement by killing three Arabs in the course of the last ten days. The agreement, he said, forbids the opening of fire, except in defence. He said that Israel was violating the Armistice Agreement at the rate of one incident per day and the killing of one Arab every ten days. This delegate claimed Israelis had perpetrated 728 border incidents between May, 1949, and December, 1952, killing 142 civilian Arabs in that period. He further claimed that Israel aircraft had violated Jordan territory 278 times and had killed four civilians and wounded six with machine-gun fire. Between June, 1950 and December, 1952, there were 36 cases of firing on Arabs by Israeli guards on Mount Scopus and in fifteen of those cases automatic weapons had been used. I was unable to jot down more than the few figures quoted herein, but the Jordan case against Israel appeared to be equally as strong as that of Israel against the Jordanians.

15. The situation is serious and my own opinion is that both sides are equally culpable. I would say, too, that however badly and however frequently Jordan breaches the Armistice Agreement, the severity of Israeli retaliation by punitive raids and armed incursions into Jordan territory is certainly unjustified and unwarranted as are the methods used, i.e. mortar fire, demolition of villages and the unrestricted and lavish use of hand grenades.



O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. 1/12/3
1/14/3

Memo No. 173/53



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

22nd January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The Jordan Prime Minister, Abul Huda, says
Jordan lost the "Little Triangle" to Israel
through error.

"We lost the Little Triangle and its 33,000 Arabs to Israel due to the unauthorised signing by an Arab Legion Officer of an enlarged copy of the Rhodes map in 1949." The Prime Minister of Jordan, Twefik Abu'l Huda, who made this statement in the Jordan Parliament during a five-hour session in Amman on January 20th, 1953, dealing exclusively with the Rhodes Agreement, added that the mistake was discovered only at the end of 1950.

2. The officer, Colonel Ali Abu Nuwar, signed a 1 : 250,000 scale map drawn from the original 1: 100,000 map. His signature was attested to by General Glubb Pasha, Officer commanding the Arab Legion. This was done, said Abul Huda, despite clear instructions to the delegation not to sign any map other than the original. Several weeks after the Rhodes Agreement, United Nations officials, who copied the map, made a serious mistake of which the Jordan members were unaware at that time. He added that the political and military circumstances which forced Jordan to sign the agreement could not yet be revealed. He said no one knew when they could be. After the signing, Jordan had tried in vain to cancel or to alter the agreement, but "high-level important negotiations behind Jordan's back" forced the Government to give up these attempts.

3. Abul Huda said a special Ministerial Committee has functioned for some time in an endeavour to trace the fault and to lay responsibility for the unauthorized signing. So far it has not been successful.

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for

O.C. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

In reply quote No. 5/2/1

Memo. No. 190/53

11 FEB 1953

175/11/29
CANBERRA

29th January, 1953

MEMORANDUM for - The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan - Israel Waters Dispute

1. Towards the end of November last, the Jordan Government presented a memorandum to Britain, France and the United States protesting against a new Israeli project for pumping large quantities of water from the Jordan river, six miles south of the Yarmuk-Jordan junction.
2. In its memorandum Jordan stated: "The execution of that project will cause great harm to the Jordanian lands at present irrigated from the River Jordan, and will hamper irrigation projects provided for the settlement of Arab refugees. That project is therefore considered a violation against the interests of the Kingdom of Jordan because it will deprive many citizens and thousands of refugees of their livelihood, and is a violation of Jordan's rights in using the water of a river which runs through lands 82½ per cent of which are under her control."
3. Jordan ended its memorandum by saying: "We assure you that the continued Israeli violation of the truce and her intentions to hamper Jordan's interests and natural rights have reached a stage which threatens peace in the Middle East. We call on you to use your influence to stop the fulfilment of that project and avoid its consequences."
4. The same problem arose during 1951 when the level of the River Jordan fell so low that all irrigation from it was forced to cease.
5. A copy of this memorandum is being forwarded to the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.

cf. 175/11/29

Alan Renouf
(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

P.O. Box 273
Australian Legation, Cairo.

2/5/1

Memo.No. 261/53

4th February, 1953

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Meeting of Four Arab Truce Committees in Cairo

1. Following the successful holding of the second meeting in Amman last November of the Four Truce Committees appointed by the Israel-Arab Armistice Commission (see this Legation's memorandum No. 142/53 of 24th January), it has been decided that a third joint conference will be held in Cairo in March.

2. According to Damascus reports the conference will discuss alleged Israeli aggression against Jordan (see this Legation's memorandum No. 260/53 of 4th February). The Syrian, Lebanese, Jordanian and Egyptian Armistice Commissions are at present separately discussing the alleged Israeli actions and plans for the Cairo meeting.

Sgd. A. P. RENOUF

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

→ 175/11/29/original 175/11/20
P28/2

SECRET

COPY

175/11/29
8

Australian External Affairs Office,
Australia House,
LONDON, W.C.2.

3rd February, 1953.

AJE/JB
3/12/39

Memo No. 99/53

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Arab-Israeli Relations.

I enclose herewith extracts from telegrams dated 30th January, 1953, from U.K. Embassy, Washington, British Middle East Office (Fayid), and U.K. Embassies, Amman and Tel Aviv in connection with present tension in Arab-Israeli relations and in particular the recent incidents on the Israeli-Jordan border.

(signed) A. J. Eastman

(A. J. Eastman)
for EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER.

try + sent in on 175/11/29.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

Confidential.

Extract from telegram from Washington to Foreign Office.

30th January, 1953.

Jordan-Israel Border Situation.

The State Department asked us to call this afternoon. A member of the French Embassy was also there.

2. The State Department said that as Britain and France were co-signatories of the tripartite agreement, they wished us to know of the concern which they had begun to feel at the deterioration in border relations between Israel and Jordan, particularly as a result of the breakdown in agreement to return nationals of the other party caught straying over the armistice line. Moreover, the local Commanders Agreement of 22nd January, 1952, had now expired and the prospects of renewal did not seem too bright. Now there were the latest armed clashes at Falama and Rantis (both places some two kilometres on the Jordan side of the armistice line) in the early hours of 29th January. According to reports reaching them from the American Embassy at Amman, and their Consulate-General at Jerusalem, these were organized forays allegedly of company strength by Israelis armed with Bangalore torpedoes and three-inch mortars as a result of this incursion, the mayor of Falama had been killed and a number of other persons in both places killed and wounded. From such information as they had, they were inclined to think it was a retaliatory move by the Israelis for recent Jordanian infiltrations.

3. The State Department had decided to call in the Israel Charge d'Affaires and the Jordanian Minister. They were told that information admittedly from one side only, had been received of this incident. The State Department asked both governments to take more effective measures to prevent infiltration and to exercise restraint. Apparently the Israeli Charge d'Affaires was also told that the State Department was shocked by this latest retaliatory move, if such it proved to be.

4. The American representatives in Tel Aviv and Amman have been instructed to draw the attention of the Israel and Jordan Governments respectively to the State Department's action.

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C O P Y

Secret.

Extract from telegram from British Middle East Office (Payid)
to Foreign Office.

31st January, 1953.

Israeli intentions.

Glubb has drawn the Commander in Chief's attention to the increased truculence shown by the Israelis since the debates at the General Assembly and expressed his urgent concern from the Arab Legion point of view. In his interpretation, the Israelis now feel that they are sure of Anglo-American support and can do as they like.

2. While making allowance for Glubb's prejudice and excitability on this subject, there is increasing evidence which leads me to share his apprehension in some measure. Not long ago the Israelis attempted to smuggle arms to Scopus in barrels. Since then, and during or since the Assembly debates, they have provoked an armed clash by trying to smuggle munitions to Scopus of a type which shows that they maintain armament at Scopus in defiance of the demilitarisation agreement. They proved recalcitrant at the mixed meeting which discussed the matter and withdrew when the meeting adjudged them responsible for violation of the relevant agreements. They have shown no disposition to agree to the inspection of Mount Scopus which the Arabs requested and which the Commission recommended. General de Ridder has expressed the opinion that they may intend to stage a series of incidents. The Israeli radio has been responsible for threatening broadcasts and the apparent likelihood of a change in policy generally is suggested by statements made recently by Gomay about General Fuidity, by the recent Israeli denunciation of the frontier agreements for liaison between local commanders and statements made by Sharett and Eytan about the armistice agreement. Finally, there have been the recent incidents in the demilitarised area between Israel and Syria, and the apparently unprovoked and certainly inexcusable instances of armed aggression reported in telegrams.

3. It is very probable that this is only a nerve war. It is agreed here that rumours of Israel intentions current recently in Jordan were spread deliberately by the Israelis themselves. Gaon, the senior Israeli representative on all Mixed Armistice Commissioner, recently informed the British, French and United States Military Attaches at Tel Aviv that an increase in shooting incidents was to be expected and he must have said that with the intention that it should spread. It may be that an increase in tension would, to the Israeli Government's mind, assist in diverting discontent from the deflationary policy they are following at home, assist in the current drive for funds in the United States, or even provide grounds for further representations against Western supplies of arms to Arab States. There are precedents for deliberate attacks on Arab villages for psychological rather than military reasons, notably the massacre at Deir Yassin in 1948 which rivalled Oradour sur Flane in scale.

4. It is very necessary for us to know what lies behind these recent incidents and statements, closely affecting as they do our treaty obligations and the general stability of the area. They are also to be regretted as providing another opportunity for Soviet propaganda. After the necessary further investigations you may consider there is a good case for admonishing Israel, possibly in conjunction with the other signatories of the Tripartite Declaration.

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

CONFIDENTIAL.

Extract from telegram from Amman to Foreign Office -
31st January, 1953.

"Jordan Minister of defence asked me to see him this morning. Speaking on behalf of the Prime Minister, who is indisposed, he said that Jordan Government took a most serious view of recent Israeli acts of hostility culminating in two attacks on Falama, in latter of which experts considered that two companies must have been engaged. In the absence of any reasonable explanation, Jordan Government concluded that Israel was either trying to frighten them into giving up territory or to prove that Arabs could not be trusted with arms supplied by the United Kingdom. Invoking Anglo-Jordan treaty, he said that he hoped Her Majesty's Government would warn Israeli Government that such aggression could not be tolerated. He thought also that Her Majesty's Government should not stand by while their ally was attacked and that Jordan Government and Her Majesty's Government should concert together measures of defence.

2. For this purpose, he suggested Arab Legion Chief of Staff and Commander in Chief Middle East should meet as soon as possible and that a meeting of Anglo-Jordan Joint Defence Board might also be considered.

3. I enquired if he had any particular measures of defence in mind, reminding him that there was still a British force at Akaba. He replied that he thought Arab Legion should have increased armaments and that British forces should be better placed, e.g. at Mafrag, to help in resisting aggression.

4. I undertook to report to you what he had said. Tripartite declaration was not mentioned. Demarche made today to United States Ambassador was based on American influence in and support for, Israel. Nothing has been said to my French colleague."

CONFIDENTIAL

C O P Y

~~Confidential.~~

Following is extract from telegram from Tel Aviv to Foreign Office.

30th January, 1953.

Israel-Jordan Frontier.

Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs yesterday expressed concern at the increase of tension which had aroused widespread disquiet in Israel. During 1952 950 Jordan melees had occurred in Israel involving losses amounting to hundreds of thousands of pounds sterling as well as thirteen murders of Israelis and fifty other Israel deaths in border affrays. The incidents within the last few days include shootings against a train near Tulkarm and an attack on a civilian car on the Haifa road miles within the Israel border. Information available to the army showed that these two attacks were made by persons paid by the Jordan military at Habbus.

2. The Minister attributed the deterioration to the increasing influence in Amman of Palestine Arabs and to the profitable complicity in raids of the National Guard, police and possible subordinate Legion personnel. The senior military officers say (as frequently in the past) that where the frontier is patrolled by the Legion infiltration is negligible, but that trouble always occurs where responsibility lies with the National Guard and the Police.

3. The Minister confirmed information in Jerusalem telegram under reference. Brigadier Dayan is Chief of the army staff and senior to Colonel Gaon, principal Israel delegate on the Mixed Armistice Commission. The object of his initiative is to deal directly with Arab Legion, preferably Jundi, thus, presumably, getting past Nashashibi, whom the Israelis regard as obdurately uncooperative. The Minister asked that we might help to bring the meeting about.

4. Despite the incidents mentioned in Amman telegram I doubt that the Israelis intend to provoke frontier incidents with the motive of aggression against Jordan. The latest incidents might indicate policy of reprisals at which Minister eagerly hinted yesterday (and which Head of Chancery, on my instructions, strongly deplored in conversation with Assistant Director-General today) saying that similar tactics in the past had been effective.

5. I hope that Her Majesty's Ambassador at Amman may be able to lend support to the proposal for a high-level military meeting as there is some chance that it might make progress at a practical level and reduce the cross-border raiding, also lift the problem out of the wrangling atmosphere which has lately pervaded the meetings of M.A.C.

6. I have discussed the problem with my American colleague who shares my alarm at the deterioration of the situation and had spoken strongly to the Minister for Foreign Affairs three days ago. Like myself, he feels that the Israelis's reprisals have no "sinister" motivation but, like the Arab raids, are likely to lead to explosion involving the participants in the tripartite declaration.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper.....

File No. 175/11/29

Published at.....

Date 7/2/53

**ISRAEL COMMENT ON
JORDAN ACTION**

DIPLOMATIC MARCH STOLEN

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1

There has been no official Israel comment on the reported decision by Jordan to invoke the Anglo-Jordan treaty of 1948; and to seek American as well as British help against Israel. Unofficially, there is a feeling that Jordan has stolen a diplomatic march on Israel. It is stated here that Jordan, by raising the problem of frontier incidents to a level of events contemplated in the Anglo-Jordan treaty and the four-Power declaration of 1950, has, in fact, inflated these incidents to far beyond their deserts, and has added one more provocation to the many provocations alleged by Israel. It is also pointed out that Amman's decision ignores the machinery for dealing with frontier incidents, and that Jordan charges of border violations, as well as Israel's counter-charges, are down for consideration by the mixed armistice commission on Tuesday.

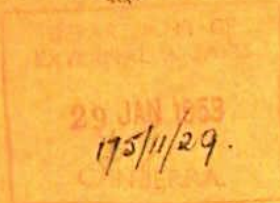
It must be admitted, of course, that recent Israel comment, especially by the chief Israel representative on the mixed armistice commission, Colonel Gaon, gave the impression that the border war had indeed developed beyond the capacity of normal armistice machinery to handle it successfully. Whether Israel intended to raise the question outside the commission, or to rely on her own military measures was not clear. It is evident, however, that a situation which keeps Israel's many frontier settlements on perpetual tenterhooks, and seriously handicaps the development of the border areas, is trying the patience of the Army, which is responsible for border security, and which may not always be content to rely upon the weakly functioning machinery of the commission.

It was announced by a military spokesman in Tel Aviv to-day that during the last week in January Israel armed forces killed 11 "infiltrators."



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/2

Memo No. 91/53.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

14th January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Jordan charges the United Nations Chief-of-Staff,
General William Riley, with bias. ¹²

On January 13th, 1953, the senior Jordan delegate on the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, Azmi Nashashibi, charged the United Nations Chief of Staff, General William Riley, with lack of objectivity and pronounced pro-Jewish tendencies. Speaking at a press conference in the Old City of Jerusalem (Jordan) he referred to the recent events in the demilitarized area of Mt. Scopus where Israel was alleged to have attempted to smuggle large quantities of arms on December 12th, 1952 - an act of which he said Israel was found guilty by the Mixed Armistice Commission.

2. Describing the Mt. Scopus area as a "thorn in the very heart of Arab territory, and a cache for hidden arms and ammunition," Nashashibi accused General Riley of repeatedly avoiding his bounden duty of failing to carry out a thorough inspection of the area as demanded by the Jordan delegation.

3. In reply to General Riley's argument that Arab Legion representatives could not participate in such an inspection unless the existing Mt. Scopus agreement was changed by the two sides concerned, Nashashibi stated that "Jordan will not negotiate with the enemy." The United Nations supervision of the demilitarised zone had proved completely insufficient, Nashashibi declared. He demanded that United Nations arms experts, fully equipped with mine detectors, should carry out a thorough search of the area. Members of the Jerusalem Consular Truce Supervision Committee (which died of inactivity soon after the Jew/Arab War) should be present at the inspection, he demanded.

4. Copies of Nashashibi's statement were sent to the senior delegates of the Lebanese, Egyptian and Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission delegations.

Up to 1/2/53

[Signature]
O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

[Signature]
1/2/53

Memo No. 169/53.

Central Section

for your files.

28th January, 1953.

H 12/2

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Change in the status of Mount Scopus.

"A-Diffa", the Old City of Jerusalem daily, has demanded the immediate cancellation of the Mount Scopus agreement between Israel and Jordan and suggested that Mount Scopus be transferred to direct United Nations control.

2. The newspaper also urged that "in view of the fact that Israel had revoked the anti infiltration agreement to be free to kill infiltrators, Jordan should now end its pacifity and repulse Israel's action with equal force."

J.C. Ingram
J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.

[Handwritten mark]

075/11/29

Brace - Jones Relates

See Q over date 31/1/52 on file

207/11/12

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CONFIDENTIAL

Foreign Office and
Whitehall Distribution.

ISRAEL

23rd January, 1953
Section 1.

ER 1074/1

CONVERSATION BETWEEN THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND
THE ISRAEL AMBASSADOR ON 23rd JANUARY 1953

Mr. Eden to Sir F. Evans (Tel Aviv)

(No.18. Confidential)

Foreign Office,
23rd January, 1953.

Sir,

The Israel Ambassador called this morning at his own request. He began by thanking me for the remarks in my broadcast speech of 9th January, when I said that I had been shocked by the anti-Jewish aspect of the recent Prague trials. People in Israel and world Jewry had been deeply touched by the strong and spontaneous reaction of British public opinion. I told Mr. Elath that the least we could do was to express our horror. I was sorry to learn this morning from Her Majesty's Minister at Budapest that in Hungary too, action was being taken against the Jews. Mr. Elath said that as regards the Prague trials the Israel Government had tried to find some other explanation than anti-semitism and indeed it appeared reasonable to explain what had happened by the need to find scapegoats on which to pin the shortcomings of the regime. In view of the action against the doctors in the Soviet Union and of the latest developments in Hungary, however, it was impossible not to believe that the policy of anti-semitism was being deliberately followed by the Kremlin and imposed upon the satellites. The Ambassador asked whether I agreed and to what lengths I thought the Kremlin would carry such a policy. I replied that I thought the Department had produced a convincing explanation of the Prague trials but I had not yet been able to form a clear view of the wider question. I would be glad to show the Ambassador in confidence the Department's analysis of the significance of the latest developments.

2. The main purpose of Mr. Elath's visit was to renew the representations on the subject of the delivery of jet aircraft to the Arab States. He assured me that it had been no part of his Government's intentions to embarrass Her Majesty's Government by public expressions of their view. But he wished to convince me of the intensity of feeling in his country on this subject. Israel had given proof of her desire to enter into friendly discussions with her neighbours to see whether they could not reach a settlement which would be in the interest not only of the parties directly concerned but of the world in general. The Arabs had rejected this offer and were threatening Israel. Public opinion in Israel was therefore deeply disturbed. Her territory was too small for her to have much confidence in the Tripartite Declaration of 1950.

3. I told the Ambassador that I did not believe that the Arab States intended to attack Israel. In the case of Jordan at least, they seemed to think that Israel might attack them. I was sure that Iraq, to whom we were under Treaty obligations, would not attack Israel. However that might be, Her Majesty's Government had carefully considered all the factors in the case and they could not go back on the decision which they had taken some time ago. It was not practicable to impose a numerical

ratio as between deliveries to Israel and deliveries to the Arab States. The actual numbers of jet aircraft involved were, however, quite small and the Israel Government would do well not to exaggerate their significance. I reminded the Ambassador that it might be possible to supply Israel with rather more than the original fourteen aircraft and to provide additional training facilities. I emphasised that the present releases did not constitute any commitment or precedent for the future, though I could not promise that a few more jet aircraft might not be available for Egypt should this prove desirable in the course of our negotiations with that country. In conclusion I handed Mr. Elath an aide-memoire which I asked him to regard not as a written reply - indeed I had decided that I could not correspond with him any further on this matter - but as resuming and confirming my remarks to him. The Ambassador took this communication in good part but begged me repeatedly to believe that his country was genuinely and deeply distressed by our deliveries of arms to the Arab countries.

4. Mr. Elath asked whether I was hopeful of an agreement with the Egyptian Government and reminded me of Israel's close interest in any arrangement for collective defence which might result. I said that we were in some difficulty over the question of the Southern Sudan which was of great importance but I hoped nevertheless that we would achieve general agreement. The prospects were more hopeful. In that, partly as a result of Mr. Byroade's visit, there was now close alignment between our views and the United States in regard to defence. There would be a moment at which we would wish to approach other Arab States and when this came I would certainly bear Israel's interest in mind. The Ambassador asked when the results of the visit of the British Military Mission to Israel would be known. I said that I understood that the Mission's report was being studied by the Chiefs of Staff at the moment. I would see whether action could be speeded up.

5. Finally Mr. Elath mentioned the fact that the German-Israel Reparations Agreement had not been ratified by the Federal Republic. His Government had entire confidence in Dr. Adenauer's good faith but the failure to implement the Agreement was most embarrassing, particularly at the present moment. It prejudiced Israel's efforts to find the necessary cash to pay the Shell Company for imports of oil, and the current budget was based on the assumption that some money would be available under the Reparations Agreement. The Israeli Government were also worried by the recent American Gallup Poll which suggested that there was a good deal of anti-Semitism in Western Germany. The situation was now being exploited in Israel by the Communists and the extreme Right and though the new Israeli Government was stronger than their predecessors they were nevertheless apprehensive. The Ambassador asked whether Her Majesty's Government, to whose good offices the signature of the Reparations Agreement had in so large measure been due, could see their way to expressing to the Federal Chancellor the hope that the ratification would not be further delayed. I undertook to consult Sir I. Kirkpatrick.

I am sending copies of this despatch to Her Majesty's Representatives at Amman, Bagdad, Beirut, Budapest, Cairo, Damascus, Jedda, Moscow, Prague, Washington, The United Kingdom High Commissioner at Wahnert and to the Head of the British Middle East Office at Fayid.

I am, etc.

ANTHONY EDEN.

In reply quote No. 2/5/1

Memo No. 59/53.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

21 JAN 1953

CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

7th January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Arabs in Nazareth.

A despatch from Moscow, published in the "New York Times" of January 4th, 1953 said that the "Teachers' Gazette," organ of the Soviet Ministry of Education had accused Israel of creating ghettos for Arabs "similar to the Jewish ghettos created by Hitler in Poland."

2. The "Teachers Gazette" charged the Jews with transforming Nazareth into an "Arab ghetto" in which all power was vested in the military authorities. This "ghetto policy" was said by the "Gazette" to be part of American racialism. It said "The Jewish State is so bound to the American imperialists" that it carried out without any limitation "the policy of its trans oceanic bosses."

3. While it is not altogether true that "ghetto" conditions obtain in Nazareth, it is true that the Arab *population of that city live under a Military Governorship which imposes on the Arabs a régime of irksome and rigid restrictions - including lack of freedom of movement, no freedom of association and discrimination in the selling of their products. The Arabs of Nazareth are, in fact, virtually prisoners enjoying no liberty of movement outside the confines of the City; Furthermore, they are discriminated against to an extent which completely negates one of the cardinal principles upon which the State of Israel was founded - racial equality. The Nazareth Arabs are a troublesome community and Communism is rife in the city.

Copy to 175/11/60

O.C. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

22/1/53

* Population of Nazareth: 15,000 mostly Arabs.

1. E
 2. UN
 3. P1 (Mr. Blakely)
 4. Centre file 805/1
- to see

In reply quote No. _____

Memo No. 19/53.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

2nd January, 1953.

14 JAN 1953
175/11/29
CA
MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.


Subject: Border Incidents.

(i) On Friday, 19th December, 1952, an Israel workman was killed by marauders at a place 35 kilometres due south of Beersheba. The man killed was with a party of workers travelling by truck to Beersheba. The marauders had placed stones across the road so forcing the truck to stop and opened fire from both sides of the road.

(ii) During the same week 80 sheep were stolen from a settlement close to the Egyptian border and a quantity of steel pipes from another settlement in the same area.

(iii) An Israel Army spokesman announced on December 20th that strong automatic and rifle fire was opened up by "irregulars" on Kibbutz Tel Katzir in Lower Galilee and on its members working in the fields. The fire is alleged to have come from two groups, together numbering about 25 persons, who entered the demilitarised zone near Khirbet Tewfik south of the Sea of Galilee. About 100 shots were fired from the positions which the Syrians took up on two hills south of the settlement. Two days later a further exchange of fire took place. This time the incident occurred when Arabs crossed the border and attempted to plough a field which had been sown by the Kibbutz. The settlement members twice forced the Arabs to stop ploughing and leave but each time they returned. The Arabs were protected by heavy rifle and machine gun fire which was directed at the kibbutz from across the border and from Khirbet Tewfik. No one was injured but all work in the fields was interrupted. Towards the evening the firing ceased and United Nations observers arrived on the scene.

The Israel delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission has lodged a strong complaint on the grounds that a penetration by regular and irregular forces into the demilitarised area constitutes a serious violation of the Truce Agreement.


O.C. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

175/11/29
1/4/2/3
1/1/6/3

Memo No. 50/53.

6th January, 1953.

MEMORANDUM for:

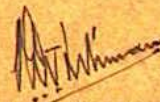
The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Palestine (West Bank) Arabs want to debate
the Rhodes Armistice Agreement.

A motion to debate the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement signed at Rhodes was submitted to the Jordan Parliament on January 1st, 1953 by the 18-member Arab Palestine opposition bloc.

2. This is the third time in a year that this bloc has submitted such a motion. It is to be discussed on January 6th.

3. Previously the Opposition members of the Jordan Parliament charged those Cabinet members who were in office in 1949, when the agreement was signed, with responsibility for signing this "unauthorised, shameful and black document." They demanded that these Cabinet members be tried publicly as traitors. The Government at that time stated that circumstances "beyond its control" forced it to sign the agreement.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

ARAB INFILTRATION LISTED BY ISRAELIS

Figures for 12-Month Period
Given to Bolster Complaints
of Official Toleration

Special to THE NEW YORK TIMES.
TEL AVIV, Israel, Jan. 1—Sixty-nine Israelis were killed, seventy-seven wounded and thirty-six kidnapped, while 394 Arabs were killed and 227 wounded, during raids into Israeli territory by Arab infiltrators during the twelve months from Dec. 1, 1951, to Nov. 30, 1952, an official Israeli source disclosed today.

The figures were released to substantiate Israel's complaint that the Arabs were continuing hostilities by all means short of engagement of armies—not only by diplomatic, propagandistic and economic pressure but also by guerrilla warfare and by deliberate toleration of the activities of smugglers and bandits.

The record showed that Israeli Army and settlement guards had captured 2,595 Arab infiltrators inside Israeli territory during the twelve-month period. There were 315 shooting encounters between the Israelis and civilian infiltrators, and eighty-three shooting encounters between the Israelis and Arab soldiers—an over-all average of more than one daily.

Israeli authorities are particularly concerned over some incidents deep in Israeli territory, with single Arabs or bands who appear to have been sent out by Arab armies or fanatical Arab organizations to perpetrate sabotage or gather information. In one of these incidents, which are not always publicized, papers were found on a dead Arab Legion soldier asking those concerned to assist him in gathering intelligence, according to the Israelis.

Governments Held Responsible

But the Israelis hold also that Arab Governments—especially that of Jordan—are responsible for tolerating if not encouraging other types of infiltration. The Israelis recorded 6,000 cases of infiltration with criminal intent, in the course of which 180 Israelis were killed and seventy injured between the armistice in July, 1949, and April 1, 1952.

More than half of these cases took place on the frontier with Jordan. During the twelve-month period ending Nov. 30 there were 1,198 cases of theft by Arab infiltrators, of which 750 originated in Jordan. But Jordan last summer rejected arrangements worked out by the Mixed Armistice Commission for exchanges of territory along the border that would probably have reduced the incidence of infiltration. Villages that had been cut off from their fields or water supply by arbitrary drawing of the armistice line would have benefited.

Information about the origin of the infiltrators passed on to Jordan by Israeli authorities has been ignored, according to them, except in a few cases where the Arab Legion is understood to have sent warnings to village headmen.

Borders Crossed Illegally

In many cases the Arabs cross the border illegally to smuggle such things as American and English cigarettes, nylons, watches and currency, and also foodstuffs such as meat and eggs to middlemen in Ramleh, Lydda and Jaffa. On return journeys they often turn to stealing cattle, agricultural machinery, cables and irrigation pipes. Sometimes the settlers have come across Arabs hidden in the bottom of ditches or waiting with mules in remote wadis (ravines) for nightfall when they would venture out for loot.

Certain Arab villages in Israel such as Tibe, Tirah and Klanswe are known to get almost all their supplies—coffee, tea, sugar, rice, clothing—illegally from Tulkarm and Kalkileh, on the Jordanian side of the border. This kind of smuggling is relatively harmless. More serious is the hashish trade. Smugglers carry hashish from Syria and Lebanon to Egypt across Israel, usually in forced night marches between Hebron and Gaza, but sometimes more boldly across the borders of Galilee and southward to the Negeb.



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/3

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No. 1489/52

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.


19th December, 1952.

Subject: Inspection of Mount Scopus.

I refer to memorandum No. 1462 of 15th December 1952, reporting the incident which occurred between Israel and Jordan troops on Friday 12th December 1952, in the vicinity of Mount Scopus, Jerusalem.

2. On Thursday 18th December 1952, Azmi Nashashibi, Senior Jordan delegate to the Jordan-Israel MAC, sent an urgent request to General William Riley, Chief of Staff of the U.N. Truce Supervisory Organization for Palestine, now at the U.N., demanding an inspection of Mount Scopus.

3. In the request it was stated that "the Jordan public are shocked by the foiled attempt the Israelis made last Friday night to smuggle arms and ammunition to the zone. Nothing would restore the tranquillity of their minds except a thorough search of the zone as soon as possible in the presence of representatives of the Arab Legion!"


O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

JCI/GEK






DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

31 DEC 1952

17/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

15th December, 1952.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/3

Memo No. 1462/52.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Serious hostile acts of aggression against
Jordan Arabs by Israel armed forces.

December 14th, 1952.

**Exchanges of Fire
In Jerusalem Area;
Complaints to MAC**

A quantity of equipment and ammunition was stolen on Friday night from an arms depot in the Jerusalem area by an armed gang of about ten Arabs, an Israel Army spokesman announced yesterday.

After an exchange of fire with the depot guards, the gang escaped. Tracks led to the Jordan border, north of Jerusalem.

A complaint is being lodged with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

An Associated Press message from the Old City last night

...development the com-
munity exists and it is through
basis of a farming community
Israel. In other countries the
the same tendency to arise in
give us any excuse for allowing
town. If this is true it does not
easier living conditions of the
yields to the attractions and the
all over the world the farmer
It is sometimes argued that
Must Continue to Build

Israel - the most vociferous protagonist of peace in the Middle East! Behind the garbled and contradictory reports in the two attached newscuttings taken from the "Jerusalem Post", is a story by credible persons of premeditated and thus deliberate infiltration into Jordan territory by Israeli armed forces and the commission by those troops of two serious hostile acts of aggression against intercepting detachments of the Arab Legion - military action which appears to give the lie to Israel's much vaunted and much publicized wish to live at peace with her Arab neighbours.

2. Last night, December 14th, 1952, I dined privately in Jerusalem at the home of the Minister in Israel for the Netherlands - Jonkheer van Karnebeek. Other guests included the British Ambassador, Sir Francis Evans, and the British Consul-General, Mr. H. Gybbon-Monypenny, who, in the capacity mentioned, is accredited to the twin Cities of Jerusalem - Jordan and Israel. Monypenny lives on the Jordan side of the Arab lines where his principal activities lie. Our host, van Karnebeek, is currently Netherlands Minister in Israel and Consul-General for the Netherlands in the Old City of Jerusalem (Jordan). Monypenny and van Karnebeek probably know more of what goes on between the Jews and Arabs in the Jerusalem zone than any other diplomatic or consular representative in Israel. One of the British Consul-General's principal jobs is to watch affairs in connection with any military activity on or near Mount Scopus. His private residence is situated a little more than half a mile or so from the summit of Scopus.

3. When I arrived at the van Karnebeek home for dinner, my host and the British Ambassador and Monypenny were in deep and serious conversation, which, apparen-

December 15th, 1952.

**Ramallah Version Of
Mt. Scopus Shooting**

The Israel Army spokesman has denied any knowledge of a Radio Ramallah allegation last night that a Jewish force made an attack on Friday night on Arab Legion headquarters in the Sheikh Jarrah quarter of Jerusalem. According to the broadcast, four cars bringing arms down from Mt. Scopus tried to break through the Arab district on their return to the Jewish section of Jerusalem.

A two-hour fight is said to have taken place, with the Arabs claiming to have captured a large number of weapons.

The broadcast implied that attempts were being made by the Israel Army to return arms from the demilitarized zone of Mt. Scopus for fear of U.N. inspection.

tly, had just begun, because the British Consul-General had arrived only a few minutes previously from the Old City and had brought with him a most interesting first-hand and authentic story from the Chairman of the Jordan/Israel Mixed Armistice Commission, General de Ridder, concerning the commission of two incidents by Israel armed forces on Jordan-held territory some seventy-two hours earlier - incidents in the nature of premeditated and thus deliberate infiltration by about a platoon and later a company of heavily armed Israeli infantry by which intercepting Arab Legion troops were hotly engaged in battle lasting several hours - six, so it is said.

2. Monypenny's story, confirmed and vouched for by the Netherlands Minister, who also had seen the Chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, was this: during the night of December 13th/14th, 1952, Arab Legion troops stationed on Mount Scopus heard comparatively close-by noises seemingly of one or more trucks apparently moving along a *wadi coming from the direction of Ramallah towards Mount Scopus. Although Ramallah is deep in Jordan territory, the occurrence seemed rather strange to the commander of the Arab Legion detachment on Scopus who decided to and did, in fact, send a section of legionnaires to investigate. This squad moved down the north-west slope of Mount Scopus in the direction of the noise, and, after travelling about 900 metres (nearly 1,000 yards) along the wadi, came on twenty or thirty Israeli infantrymen and a truck. The Israelis deployed and all dropped to the ground except one man who sprayed the advancing Arab Legion troops with Sten-gun fire - the remainder used hand grenades and rifle fire against the legionnaires. The Arab Legion detachment took cover, and, after about an hour's engagement, the Israeli troops withdrew - leaving behind, as far as could be judged, about twelve hundred 3" mortar shells in carriers, (I do not know what these carriers are), some six or seven hundred "rockets" and about one thousand rounds of S.A.A. In the course of the fighting the Arab Legion squad was reinforced and, when the Israelis withdrew, work began of moving the loot to the nearest Arab Legion post. This was a considerable job, and, when work had been in progress for an hour or two, several Israeli Army trucks made their way along the wadi, Israeli searchlights were turned on the recent scene of operations, and about a company of Israeli troops disembarked from the trucks, quickly deployed and engaged the Legion unit, the number of which by this time, had again been augmented by reinforcements. Then began an action which lasted several hours, and which, so the story goes, resulted in the rout of the invading Israelis. The Arab Legion then proceeded to make good the removal of the spoils of the earlier engagement and the affray ended.

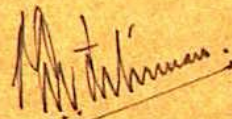
5. No one at present seems quite clear whether this ammunition was being smuggled up to the Israel University-Hospital on Mount Scopus, or whether the incident was an attempt to remove arms and ammunition from those places in order to prevent their discovery - if, following persistent demands by Jordan that the Israel University-Hospital be investigated and "inspected", such investigatory action were taken by the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organisation. Incidentally such an investigation was on the tapis.

6. Here it is interesting to observe that, in order to reach the spot where the engagement took place in the wadi, the Israeli troops must have crossed into Jordan territory at a point which necessitated their traversing some miles across country before entering the wadi and then bearing right (south) along the wadi in the direction of Mount Scopus where they were engaged by the Arab Legion.

* watercourse - dry, except in the rainy season.

OCWF.

7. The Israeli version of the affair (obtained from Israel Army Headquarters by the British Embassy Military Liaison Officer) is that a numerically large gang of Arab irregulars, using four vehicles, broke into an Israel Army ammunition dump, stole a quantity of ammunition and made off towards the Jordan frontier. Israeli troops intercepted the marauders; a two-hour exchange of fire took place and the "infiltrators" were beaten off. Their tracks led to the Jordan frontier. That is the Israel story, but an exchange of telegrams today, December 15th, 1952, between the British Embassies at Amman and Tel Aviv confirms that the story told by the British Consul-General in the Old City (Jordan) and corroborated by the Netherlands Minister in Israel (Netherlands Consul-General in the Old City) is substantially correct - except, perhaps, as to the exact quantity of Israeli ammunition captured by Arab Legion troops. Casualties, if any, are not known.



O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

Memo No. 1422/52.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

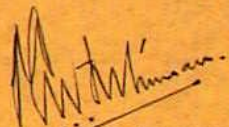
DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
19 DEC 1952
175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

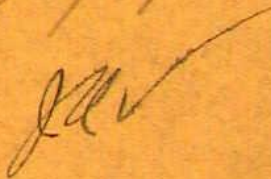
December 4th, 1952.

Subject: The Jerusalem Front.

An Army spokesman of the Israel Army announced on December 4th that 7 infiltrators were killed and 46 captured on the Jerusalem Front for the week ending December 2nd, 1952.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

OS
OCWF/MH.

copy on 175/11/6




In reply quote No. 1/1/2/8

Memo No. 1376/52.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

3rd December, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

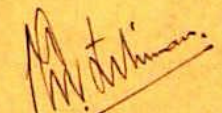

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: A Reported Skirmish in the Jerusalem
Frontier.

On December 3rd, 1952, the Old City daily, "A-Diffa" reported that 30 Israel soldiers crossed into Jordan from north Talpiot and attacked Silwan village in the Jerusalem area at 1.30 a.m. on December 1st. "A-Diffa" went on to say that, in a two-hour fight with National Guards, the Israelis retreated taking several casualties with them. An attempt by the Israelis to blow up several houses with hand grenades was apparently ineffective.

2. Jordan had lodged a sharp protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission and demanded an emergency meeting. Azmi Nashashibi, newly-appointed Jordan senior delegate to the M.A.C., also protested verbally to General Bennett L. de Ridder, United Nations Chairman. Nashashibi has gone to Amman to report the incident to the Jordan Ministerial Committee on Armistice affairs.

3. Israel Army authorities have denied the report mentioned in paragraph one of this memorandum and have also denied that Israel troops crossed into Jordan to lay mines. A spokesman of the Israel Army said, rather contradictorily: "In any case we suffered no losses in this action."


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister. 



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

- 9 DEC 1952
175/11/29
CANBERRA.

Memo No. 1354/52

27th November, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israel/Jordan relations: Frontier clashes
in the Jerusalem area; infiltration.

The Jerusalem area continues to be very uneasy, and, during the past week there have been many frontier clashes, a lot of firing by both sides, Israeli and Arab Legion troops, and many cases of infiltration. I can do no better, in order to emphasize the seriousness of the situation, than to attach excerpts from today's paper which are typical of daily reports which appear in the press. For the past six to nine months, tension in the Jerusalem area has been mounting steadily and the situation there is clearly deteriorating.

CS & UN.

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

R/S. km alah 16/11/52
8.9.✓

CS

OCWF/GEK

Encs.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Thursday, November 27th, 1952.

Infiltrator Was On Active Service

An armed infiltrator, in the service of the Jordan army, was killed last week, when a group of armed marauders was ambushed by a Police patrol near Tulkarm. An Army spokesman said that the following document, written in Arabic, was found on the body of the Arab:

"To whom it may concern, the holder of this document, Mahmood Suleiman, of Nablus, is on active service. I request that he should not be hindered in doing his duty. This temporary document should be considered proof of his service. It is valid till the end of November 1952.

(Signed) Second Lieutenant, the name is unreadable on behalf of the Intelligence Officer of the Western Area."

The acting head of the Israel delegation of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission has sent a complaint to the Chairman of the Commission, General de Ridder, and has demanded an immediate emergency meeting.

In his letter to the Chairman, he emphasized that this incident could be taken as proof that armed bands were being sent by the Jordan Army to carry out hostile acts against Israel. He considered this a most serious infringement of all existing agreements between the two countries.

General de Ridder announced that he has agreed to convene an emergency meeting of the Commission.

6 Infiltrators Slain, 2 Hurt, 20 Captured

Six infiltrators were killed, two wounded and 20 captured from November 17 to 23 by Defence Forces and Police, an Army spokesman announced yesterday.

3 CAUGHT IN HILLS

RAMLE, Wednesday (ITM). — Three marauders were caught near a settlement in the Judean Hills last night. Four goats were stolen in a southern settlement by marauders whose traces led to the border.

SETTLER WOUNDED

REHOVOT, Wednesday. — A settler was seriously wounded by bullets fired at him by marauders last night in the Judean Hills.

Yekutieli Hederman, 44, and his companion who were on guard together came suddenly under a hail of bullets directed from a nearby ditch. Hederman was hit but his companion found cover and reportedly saw five men with Arab headgear making off towards the border. Hederman was immediately taken to the Asaf Harofe Hospital in a serious condition.

Arab Fire Pins Down Police in Jerusalem

Arab Legionnaires opened fire with rifles and light machine guns on a group of Israel policemen in Jerusalem yesterday morning. The police had been investigating tracks in no-man's-land made by infiltrators, who after clashing with police earlier in the morning, had retreated across the border.

The unarmed police took cover in a gully when the Legionnaires opened fire. Repeated efforts to extricate them were unsuccessful. The shooting continued for more than an hour, and only after intervention by U.N. officials did the Arab soldiers cease fire. The police suffered no casualties. (Itm)

TEN YEARS' JAIL FOR INFILTRATING

NAZARETH, Tuesday.—Found guilty of illegally entering the country from Jordan and carrying arms, two armed infiltrators were sentenced to 10 years in prison by a three-man military court here today.

The third accused, 16-years old, was sentenced to five years because of his youth. Rav-Seren Moshe March presided over the Court, and Mr. E. Gross was appointed to defend the accused.

Settler Dies of Wounds; Marauder Killed in Hills

REHOVOT, Thursday. — Mr. Yekutieli Hederman, who was shot by marauders in a settlement in the Judean Hills last night, died of his wounds in a hospital today. Mr. Hederman, who arrived in Israel from Czechoslovakia three years ago, leaves a wife and child.

A marauder was shot dead by guards in one of the Judean Hills settlement last night. Three of the gang of four escaped after they were apprehended entering the barn situated in the centre of the settlement. The body of the fourth, dressed in a British Royal Air Force coat, was found at dawn.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No.1362/52

28th November, 1952.

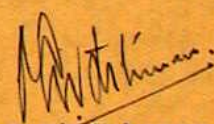
MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: A Jordan complaint about river waters
being diverted by Israel.

In March 1951, Britain, the U.S.A. and France guaranteed the territorial integrity of Jordan. Recently, Jordan complained to these Powers that Israel had established a plant south of the junction of the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers and that this plant drew off waters which were regarded by Jordan as essential for her irrigation plans.

2. I understand that Britain has said that she will consider Jordan's complaint sympathetically.


O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

CS
OCWF/GEK

W. G. V. ✓
R. S. Mr. McMahon 16/12
F. 107.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *New York Times*

File No. *100/107*

Published at *London*

Date *9/12/62*

Jordan Opposes Israel Use of River

C Says Irrigation Project Would Harm Land

AMMAN, Dec. 7 (A.P.).—An irrigation project by Israel to draw large quantities of water from the River Jordan has caused the Jordan Foreign Office to send a memorandum to Great Britain, France and the United States.

Israel proposes to draw on Jordan water from a point 10 kilometers below the meeting place of the Rivers Jordan and Yarmouk. The memorandum stated this will have a disastrous effect on vast areas of Jordan lands now irrigated by the River Jordan water.

The River Jordan project is considered by Jordan to be an offensive act. The memorandum appealed to the three powers who guaranteed the status quo in Palestine to do their utmost to put an end to Jewish aggression.

The memorandum pointed out that 82 1/2 per cent of land irrigated by the River Jordan lies in the Kingdom of Jordan. It further stated that many refugees, now in Jordan as a result of the Palestine war, will lose their livelihood if the project goes through. The same problem arose last year when the level of the river fell so that all irrigation from it stop-

2/8/2/4
2/8/5

Memo No. 1427/52.

075/11/29
December 5th, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The political significance of the Huleh scheme
and associated Jordan Diversion proposals.

One of the main features of the tour arranged for Messrs. East and Brown was a visit to the Huleh drainage scheme, which, it will be realised, was the cause of conflict last year between Syria and Israel.

Briefly the scheme consists of the deepening of the bed of the Jordan from where it leaves Lake Huleh to a point approximately three kilometres south of the Lake. The deepening has been done, by blasting the bed of the Jordan and scooping up the loosened earth and rock with drag-line excavators. Two-thirds of the work has now been completed. The engineer in charge stated that it would now be finished were it not for the fact that the Government ordered that excavators should only operate from the Israel side and not simultaneously from the Syrian bank, as they did until last year's dispute arose.

When the Jordan bed has been deepened, the water in Lake Huleh and part of the water in the swamps to the north will flow away down the Jordan. To complete the drainage of these swamps, two very large channels in the shape of a "V" with their apex in the bed of the Jordan will be dug. The contract for this work has already been let to an American firm. The channels dug will form a permanent feature of the north Jordan valley, since they will provide suitable drainage channels for possible flood waters in future years.

I have mentioned in memorandum No. 1416 of December 4th, 1952 that it is proposed to divert the Dan, the main tributary of the Upper Jordan, through a channel and pipe lines to the South of the country. The channel, will in its initial stages, run along the western escarpment of the Huleh valley under gravitation. From the channel and at right angles to it across the valley it is planned to lay pipes for the irrigation of the whole valley, including the reclaimed swamp and lake land. Irrigation will be by sprinkler as is customary in Israel. Although this method is more costly than by open channel, it does represent a more efficient utilization of water resources, since there is no loss from seepage and evaporation.

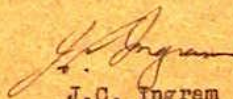
It is difficult to see on what grounds the Syrians have opposed the drainage project. It would not appear to affect their economy in any way. While the Syrians have maintained that certain of their villagers will be deprived of a livelihood by fishing if the lake is drained, this ignores the fact that the Palestine Mandatory Government, granted in the 1930's, a concession to the Jewish Agency to drain the Lake. It would appear that Syria's main objection is to the removal of a defensive barrier between it and Israel.

...2..

December 5th, 1952.

The proposed diversion of the Dan described above, while not affecting Syria, may give rise to opposition in Jordan since the Dan is the main tributary of the Jordan. The Israelis maintain that since the Dan has its source in Israel, it is a purely Israel stream and as such, they can do with it what they like. While the Sea of Galilee (Lake Tiberias) is the main regulator of the flow of the lower Jordan, it is conceivable that the diversion of the Dan might so lower the level of the Sea of Galilee, that the flow of water in the lower Jordan might be materially reduced, thus affecting the livelihood of the Arab peasants in the lower Jordan valley. Therefore, it is likely that unless some agreement is reached concerning the disposal of the Jordan waters, Jordan will object to the diversion of the Dan.

Ultimately, Israel envisages that no fresh water will flow down the Jordan to the Dead Sea and that in its place will be substituted sea water pumped from the Mediterranean, near Haifa. The difference in elevation is 390 metres (1,267 feet), and this difference can be utilized for the generation of 1,500 million kilowatt hours of electricity per annum. Obviously, this project could not be implemented until agreement had been reached with Jordan concerning the distribution of the electricity generated.


J.C. Ingram
Secretary.

JCI/MH.



In reply quote No. _____

Memo No. 1296/52.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.


21st November, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The Israel/Jordan frontier at Jerusalem.

During the week ending November 20th, 1952,
one infiltrator was killed and thirteen were wounded
by Israeli Army detachments patrolling the Israel frontier
in the vicinity of Jerusalem.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

WJ GUN
8/1/52

20/



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

-2 DEC 1952

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

In reply quote No. _____

Memo No. 1295/52.

21st November, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Notes on and from the Arab States.

- UN 1 17/5/52 ✓*
- UN 1 17/5/52 ✓*
- UN ✓ 17/5/52 ✓*
- Refugees (Arabia) ✓*
17/5/52 ✓
17/5/52 ✓
- (a) Member of the Jewish guard on Mount Scopus was killed by a bullet fired from a near-by hill on November 15th, 1952. "Falastin", the Old City daily, by which this incident was reported, did not say how this incident occurred or by which side, Jew or Arab, the shot was fired.
- (b) The Arab Legion Commander in the Old City has informed the Jerusalem (Jordan) Municipal Council that there is no longer any objection to the removal of the "dragon teeth" (tank) and other road blocks in the streets and roads leading to the Old City. Blocks and tank traps are, however, to remain on the road to Mount Scopus; near the Mandelbaum Gate (entry point from Israel); and in the American colony.
- (c) "A-Diffa", a Jordan daily, stated on November 16th, 1952, that the Government had decided to introduce compulsory military training in all refugee camps in the country. The then Defence Minister, Anwar Nuseibeh, (since removed from office) informed the Senate of this "amid loud applause." He added that training is to begin on November 21st at the largest refugee camp in Jordan - at Akbat Jaber Camp near Jericho. The Defence Minister said that they had not embarked on this scheme before because the military authorities were too busy training National Guard detachments in villages along the Israel frontier.
- (d) The Jordan Government has been informed by the United States Point IV Administration in Amman that American experts will begin surveying the Dead Sea area on December 1st with a view to determining the prospects of re-opening the Potash works and of exploiting other minerals in the area.

Syria:

General Fawzi Selo, Head of the Syrian State, announced on November 17th, 1952, that Syria had adhered to the Peace Treaty with Japan signed in San Francisco on September 8th, 1952.

Recd ✓
Do ✓
Recd ✓
+ 18/7 ✓
Do ✓
177/14 ✓

Iraq: (a) The Near East Broadcasting Service (Cyprus) stated in a news transmission on November 19th, 1952 that a Fury-type British fighter air-craft bearing Iraqi markings landed that day at Nicosia en route to Baghdad where it is to be delivered to the Iraqi Government. This plane, it was said, was the third to pass through Cyprus for Iraq in the last few months.

(b) The London "Daily Telegraph" reported on November 17th that the Communists have chosen Iraq as their future target in the Middle East with Beirut, the Lebanon, as their regional Middle East headquarters.

The Lebanon:

According to Radio Damascus, a new Lebanese destroyer, the LR-19, was launched in Beirut on November 18th, 1952.

O.C.W. Fuhrman
 O.C.W. Fuhrman
 Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The London Times

File No.

Published at

Date

26/11/52

JORDAN WATERS DISPUTE

**AMMAN PROTEST AT NEW
ISRAELI PROJECT**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, Nov. 26

The Jordan Foreign Ministry has sent to Britain, France, and the United States memoranda protesting against a new Israeli project for pumping large quantities of water from Jordan river, six miles south of the Yarmuk-Jordan junction.

In its memoranda the Foreign Ministry states: "The execution of that project will cause great harm to the Jordanian lands at present irrigated from the River Jordan, and will hamper irrigation projects provided for the settlement of Arab refugees. That project is therefore considered a violation against the interests of the Kingdom of Jordan because it will deprive many citizens and thousands of refugees of their livelihood, and is a violation of Jordan's rights in using the water of a river which runs through lands 82½ per cent. of which are under her control."

The Foreign Ministry ended its memoranda by saying: "We assure you that the continued Israeli violation of the truce and her intentions to hamper Jordan's interests and natural rights have reached a stage which threatens peace in the Middle East. We call on you to use your influence to stop the fulfilment of that project and avoid its consequences."

1/1/6/3
In reply quote No. 1/1/2/8



EXT. COMM. DIV.

28 NOV 1952

175/11/29

COMMONWEALTH

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL. AVIV.

Memo No. 1202/52.

6th November, 1952.

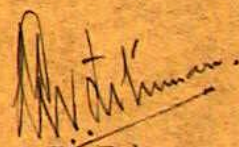
MEMORANDUM for:

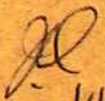
The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israel/Jordan relations - a serious frontier clash.

A serious frontier clash between an Israel Army detachment and a patrol of the Jordan National Guard occurred on November 4th, 1952 near Ramallah - north of Jerusalem. The Jordan authorities assert that Israel troops attacked a small village in the area mentioned and were engaged by the National Guard. An exchange of fire over two hours followed - in the course of which there were several Israel casualties.

2. Several similar clashes occurred last month, October, in the same region and Israel casualties on those occasions were said to be "heavy".


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.


27/11/52

OGWE/NH

THE JERUSALEM POST

Wednesday, November 19th, 1952.

REVIEW OF OPINION IN YESTERDAY'S PRESS

Latest Arab Threats Reach Record in Cynicism—Davar

The internal tension in Jordan has caused ruling circles there to take refuge in such time-honoured diversions as the "common danger" (i.e. the danger of Israel and Zionism) against which the Arab countries have to unite — says "Davar" (Histadrut).

Commenting on the meeting of the armistice commissions from the various Arab countries and the speech of the Jordan Minister for Defence on that occasion, the paper calls it a new record of cynicism. The Jews have attacked the Arabs, the Jews are violating the Rhodes agreements, declared Mr. Nuseibeh. What then is the reason for the secret session of the conference and the common visit to the border area? Is it their intention to examine new possibilities for attack? Or do they perhaps wish to get first-hand knowledge about those "traitorous elements" against which Radio Ramallah yesterday warned the population? The Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman was quite correct in calling the present crisis an internal Jordan

affair, but if they wish to involve us in their affairs, they will find us ready, and there will not be the slightest doubt in the world as to who really wants peace and who is the aggressor.

Historic Opportunity

"Herut" on the other hand says that the crisis is no internal affair of Jordan, and that it is the duty of a prudent foreign policy to interfere in such a way that there will be no necessity for using force in doing historic justice. Once again an historic opportunity has come, will it again be missed, — asks the paper.

"Hamodia" (Agudat Israel) says that it is too early to prophesy whether the present revolt of the Palestinian Arabs will lead towards secession and the establishment of a new Arab state. Any political or military change in that respect directly affects Israel and we should not be taken unawares.

"Hatzofe" (Hapoel Hamizrachi) deals with the electricity crisis in Jerusalem and says that the citizen cannot know about, and is little interested in, the relations between the Jerusalem company and the Government, but he realizes that there is little in common between the optimistic accounts as given by official spokesmen, and reality.

"Omer" (Histadrut) says that the Government should put an end to the strike at the Shimshon plant at Hartuv: the workers are merely demanding that they should be paid for their work in the past, and it should be explained to the owners of the plant that "free enterprise" is no synonym for blackmail. At the present moment "Shimshon" is of particular importance in view of the fact that it could supply electric current to the capital.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

12 NOV 1952

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

In reply quote No.

Memo No. 1156/52.

30th October, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Mount Scopus - a serious incident settled.

**ISRAEL TAKES DOWN
HUT ON MT. SCOPUS**

TEL AVIV, Wednesday.—A hut erected by Israel on Mt. Scopus was taken down this week, it was learned here today. The question of this hut had been raised in passing by the diplomatic representatives of the U.S., Britain and France in a number of routine calls at the Foreign Ministry in recent weeks.

Israel finally agreed to remove the structure in order to prevent a dispute, but Israel reserved its rights to put up such structures in the Scopus area. This reservation was accepted.


The Foreign Ministry spokesman tonight denied Arab reports of "strong protests" having been lodged on this matter by the three Western Powers which had last year guaranteed the present borders between Israel and the Arab States.

The action reported in the attached newscutting as having been taken by the Israel authorities, puts an end, temporarily at all events, to a seven-months period of tension on Mount Scopus where, in April last and in defiance of objections by the Jordan Government, Israel troops erected a hut, dug some near-by trenches and mined the forward approaches to the hut.

2. The background to this long drawn-out local squabble between Israel and Jordan is that, in April 1952, a detachment of Israeli troops began the erection of a hut on a site close to the main road leading up to the demilitarized zone on Mount Scopus where the Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University are situated. The Jordanians protested at the time to the Mixed Armistice Commission, and said, inter alia, that this structure was some metres over the frontier line and on Jordan territory. The Israelis on their part, denied this, and, to prove their contention that the building was on land inside the Israel frontier, they fell back on a map attached to the "Cease-fire" Agreement of November 30th, 1948. Upon that map, the frontier was a hastily drawn line in thick pencil - the marking being a line about 3/16ths of an inch wide on a scale map 1:40,000. This particular map, produced and marked on November 30th, 1948, was a war-time expedient - the pencilled line being merely the "stand-fast" positions of the opposing troops at the moment when the "Cease Fire" began to operate. It was never intended to be anything else and both sides were aware of that fact; they also knew that, if an Armistice followed the "Cease-Fire", the respective positions of the opposing troops would be marked in with pin-point accuracy. It is now history that this "Cease-Fire" was followed by an Armistice and an Agreement was signed at Rhodes on April 3rd, 1949, to which were attached, as Annex I, a series of maps including one of the Jerusalem/Mount Scopus area. Those maps, especially the one under discussion, were 1:15,000 survey maps upon which the Israel/Jordan frontier was delineated, by a fine line in ink drawn after a United Nations survey and after the frontier had been agreed by the signatories to the Agreement. This map, with its precise and accurately defined frontier, showed unmistakably that the hut erected by the Israelis was on Jordan soil.

3. To revert to the erection of the hut. This structure was to be used by the Jews as a frontier strong post, and despite Jordanian objections the Israelis went ahead with its construction and fortified it to the extent that forward and support-line trenches, with sand-bag revetments, were built in front of and to the rear of the building; the trenches were joined by a concrete covered communication trench, and the area in the vicinity of the hut was mined. On several occasions, in the early stages of the construction of this post, there were exchanges of fire between Israeli and Arab Legion troops. The Jordanians were unceasing in their complaints to the Mixed Armistice Commission but the work went on. The Jordanians threatened to stop the fortnightly convoy to the Hebrew University. Tension heightened considerably. Then the intervention of the United Nations Chief-of-Staff, General William E. Riley, was sought. Riley appealed to the Israeli army authorities with little success. He was, apparently, diffident about using his authority and ordering the stoppage of the work and evacuation of the position. Riley then mentioned the matter to the Heads of the United Kingdom, United States and French Missions in Israel. This was in July last. Riley proved conclusively to those Heads of Missions that the building was a few metres over the frontier line and that it was, in fact, on Jordan territory. The Heads of the Missions mentioned conferred, and it was agreed that, independently, they should approach the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs and suggest that the Jordanian objection to the hut was well-founded, and that, to ease the situation, which was daily becoming more acute and dangerous, the Israelis should demolish the structure, de-mine the area and fill in the trenches. Finally, after much demur, the Israelis agreed and did what was requested of them. They entered a reservation, however, that they retained the right to erect such structures in the Mount Scopus area.

4. This incident was sheer bluff on the Israelis part - on all fours with the incident at Kilometer 84 on the Beersheba/Elath road in 1951 when it was found and proved by the Jordanians that Israel had, on that occasion, built part of a road on territory, which, according to the map attached to the Armistice Agreement, was indisputably in Jordan. It will be recalled, on connection with this particular incident, that Israel had to cede some five kilometers of roadway to Jordan.


O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

175/11/29

Memo No. 1123/52.

21st October, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israel representation on the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

1. Israel has strengthened her representation on the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission by withdrawing the present Israel delegate, Sgan Aloof Ramati, and appointing Sgan Aloof Haim Gaon in his stead.
2. Gaon was a volunteer of "Mahal" (volunteers from abroad who joined the Israel Army during the war against the Arabs). He is 28 years of age, and a native of Holland with extensive military experience, having served in three armies - the Dutch, the British and the Israel Armies. During the second world war, he served as Lieutenant in the "Gordon Highlanders" and saw service with the British Army in Burma. In 1948 he left his studies in Oxford to join the Israel forces. Gaon was a member of the Israel delegation to the Armistice talks at Rhodes and represented Israel at the Israel-Jordan Committee during the demarcation of the border lines.
3. Gaon speaks Hebrew, English, French, German and Dutch. He is married and has two children.

Handwritten notes:
copy sent to
J
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Signature of O.C.W. Fuhrman
O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

OCWF/MH

(COPY)

177/11/29
Australian Legation,
Cairo.

13/5/1

26th October, 1952.

M. No. 905/52

MEMORANDUM for :-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Missions from other Arab States to Congratulate
President Shamoun

1. Reference is made to the Legation's memoranda Nos. 784, 813, 819, and 869 regarding the Missions sent by other Arab States to the Lebanon to congratulate President Shamoun upon his election and the visit to be paid by the Premier of the Lebanon to Syria.
2. On 19th October, 1952 the Lebanese Mission to return the visit of Colonel Shishakly left Beirut for Damascus. It was led by the Premier and included the Foreign Minister.
3. The visit of Jordan's Mission to the Lebanon was returned by a further Mission which left Beirut on 25th October, 1952. This Mission also was led by the Premier and included the Foreign Minister as well as the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces and the Defence Minister.
4. The Iraqi Mission to President Shamoun arrived in Beirut on 16th October and remained there for one week. The Mission was led by the Acting Foreign Minister of Iraq. During the Mission's stay in Beirut the Iraqi Minister there told the Press that political and economic ties between the two countries had been strengthened as a result of the visit.
5. These Missions to and from Beirut have provided opportunities for leading Arab Statesmen to exchange views on important Arab topics, among which economic and defence issues obviously rank high. They have apparently given birth to an idea in the minds of the Lebanese Authorities that all Arab States should be invited to a conference in Beirut in November to consider all important Arab questions. Rumours regarding such a conference have been published by the Beirut Press.
6. It has been reported here that the Lebanese Minister of Economy (Georges Hakim of United Nations fame) discussed on 22nd October, 1952 the conclusion of an economic agreement with Syria. These discussions were conducted with commercial interests drawn from Beirut, Tripoli and Sidon. The Newspapers state that full-scale official talks along the same lines will be commenced shortly with the object of concluding a treaty to restore economic union in the Levant.

Alan Renouf
Secretary

177/11/29
P.O. Box 273

Australian Legation, Cairo.

13/5/2

Memo. No. 1142/52

3rd December, 1952

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Lebanese - Jordanese Agreement

1. The Lebanese desire to conclude a Commercial Agreement with Jordan (which was reported in this Legation's memorandum No. 159/52 of 26th February) resulted a short time ago in the sending of a mission led by the Prime Minister, Khaled Shihab, to Amman.
2. After the return of the mission, the draft of a new Agreement between the two countries was passed to the Chamber of Deputies on 27th October for consideration. The Prime Minister declared at the time that the Agreement dealt mainly with economic questions, but mentioned that he had also discussed in Amman the possibility of abolishing the use of passports between the two countries.
3. The Prime Minister stated that his negotiations with the Jordanese had come to a successful conclusion because of the friendly relations already existing between the two countries.

Sgd. A. P. RENOUF

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

A
① to me
LK (orig in 177/11/11)
② to return to
B. Bentue
Bentue



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

24 OCT 1952

CANBERRA

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

In reply quote No. S.13/3/1.

Memo.No. 813/52

13th October, 1952

177/11/29

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Visit of the Jordan Mission of Honour to the
Lebanon.

1. On 7th October, 1952 a Mission from Jordan to salute President Shamoun upon his election arrived in Beirut. This Mission was headed by the Deputy Premier of Jordan, Said El Mufti, and included the Chief of the Royal Cabinet, the Minister of Finance, the Governor of Amman and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Arab Legion.

2. At a luncheon given by the President on the same day the leader of the Mission said that Arab peoples were hoping for a new Lebanese prosperity. These peoples were passing through a very delicate phase and they were thus seeking movements which would lead to the elimination of stagnation, the revitalization of their civilization and partnership in the quest for world peace. He praised the Lebanon as a source of intellectual stimulus throughout the Arab world and a cradle of that world's aspirations and progress.

Alan Renouf

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

AM
177/11/30

C. S.

177/11/30

P.O. Box 273

Australian Legation, Cairo.

S.13/3/1.

Memo.No. 813/52

13th October, 1952

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Visit of the Jordan Mission of Honour to the
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Sgd. A. P. RENOUF

(Alan Renouf),
Secretary.

Sgd. and
177/11/52



PA

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 1045/52.

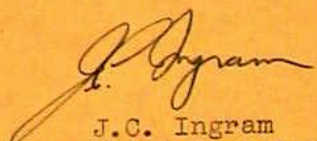
30th September, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

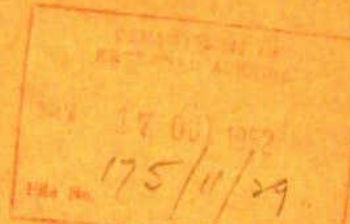
Subject: Border Incidents.

I refer to my memorandum no. 1036 reporting that two border incidents had recently arisen between Israel and Jordan. The meeting of the Mixed Armistice Commission to investigate these disputes has now taken place and it is reported in the Israel press that the Chairman of the Commission, General Bennet de Ridder, has emphasised the seriousness of the incidents and termed them a serious violation of the Armistice Agreement. The Jordan delegate, while refusing to accept the Mixed Armistice Commission's verdict of Jordan's guilt, expressed his "regret that an Israel Army member of the Mixed Armistice Commission was wounded in the light of duty."


J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.

Wm K UN
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CS Mr Vase
see note attached
g.



In reply quote No 1/1/2/4

1/1/6/3

Memo No. 1060/52.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

2nd October, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Revival of Mount Scopus Committee.

The Old City daily, A-diffa, reports that General William Riley has urged the Jordan Government to make possible the revival of the special committee provided for by Article 8 of the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement. This Article is designed to ensure free movement of traffic on the Bethlehem, Latroon roads, the resumption of normal activity on Mount Scopus and free access thereto. The Committee has not met during the past two years.

2. It would appear that Jordan had complained to General Riley that the Jews were fortifying their buildings on Mount Scopus, and General Riley had suggested that the best remedy for this alleged fortification would be the implementation of the provisions of Article 8 of the Agreement.

J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.

CS *copy to* *g/m* *10*

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 1036/52.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

25th September, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Border Incident with Jordan.

During the last few days two border incidents between Israel and Jordan, rather more serious than usual, have occurred. The first incident involved the wounding of two Israel soldiers who were defending olive pickers in the little triangle. Their wounding, according to a statement issued by the Ministry of Defence, was the final act in a three-day incident which began when rifle and automatic fire was opened on the olive pickers and which included the lobbing of 10 3-inch mortar shells into the grove. The firing only ceased with the arrival of a Mixed Armistice Commission sub-committee of enquiry. In the meantime Israel has lodged a protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission demanding that the Commission hold an emergency meeting. No answer has yet been received.

2. A sharp protest has also been lodged concerning the second incident which likewise involved the wounding of two soldiers. According to the Ministry of Defence the soldiers had been surveying a portion of the border with Jordan with the knowledge of the Jordanian authorities who had been informed of the proposed surveying trip two days previously.

copy to WNW
5/17
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J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.

175/11/29
g

Memo No. 1091/52.

13th October, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Release of Political Prisoners in Jordan.

One of the first acts of the new Jordan Cabinet, whose formation was announced in memorandum no. 1056 of 2nd October, 1952, was to yield to the demands of the Palestinian Arab Opposition Members of Parliament to release all political detainees, "Falastin, an Old City of Jerusalem newspaper reported.

2. Apparently an extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet on 5th October decided to lift all good conduct bonds imposed on past and present political prisoners. The number of such persons is estimated to number several thousand, most of them being Palestinian Arabs who were held in various prisons as suspected Communists or sympathisers of the Mufti.

orig. - 20/10/52
g

J.C. Ingram
J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.



In reply quote No.

1/16/3

Memo No. 983/52.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

26 SEP 1952

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

10th September, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Border Incident Between Israel and Jordan.

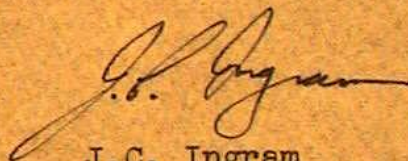
A most interesting case of infiltration by Israel Arabs into Jordan was recently discussed in the Knesset. The circumstances of the case are as follows:

2. On 25th June, 1952, a party of Arabs was intercepted by Israel soldiers while the Arabs were moving towards an illicit border rendezvous with relatives from across the armistice lines for the celebration of the Moslem feast of Id el Fitr. During the incident which arose, two of the Arabs were killed and five others wounded.

3. The incident itself is of no particular interest since ones similar to it occur almost every day. However, in this case the Government, as announced by the Prime Minister in the Knesset, has agreed to pay compensation to the families of the deceased and those who suffered casualties, the reason being that an error of judgment had been committed by the Army. The "error of judgment" is said to have arisen because the border patrol soldiers, who were still undergoing training, had been deployed in ambush instead of being placed between the Arab villages in Israel and the armistice line, the army having anticipated attempts to cross the lines during the feast. However, the soldiers had been ordered to caution Arabs by firing into the air and only then shoot at their legs if they disobeyed the order. The Prime Minister stated that he was satisfied that the soldiers had obeyed the order to caution the Arabs, but he was also prepared to accept the testimony of the Arabs that they had not heard the warning. In the circumstances, therefore, and in view of the employment of the soldiers in ambush, he had accepted the recommendation of the committee representing the Ministries of Justice and Defence and the Army General Staff that compensation should be paid.

4. In order to prevent future occurrences of this type the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Council which had studied the case recommended that holiday meetings should be facilitated for the Moslems. The committee also suggested that the possibility should be examined of using police measures against persons moving overtly towards the armistice lines, and that shots should be fired only as a last resort. Mr. Ben Gurion rejected both suggestions. He said that Christians were permitted to go to Bethlehem and Jerusalem because they were holy places for the Christians but there was nothing particularly holy for the Moslems in the Arab "triangle". They had no more claim to celebrate the holidays with their relatives than Jews from, say, Egypt, Syria or the Lebanon had to return to those countries to rejoin their relatives.

5. Regarding the second recommendation of the committee, the Prime Minister said that contact between Arabs on both sides of the armistice lines threatened the security of the State and would not be tolerated. Since the majority of illicit meetings were for the purposes of smuggling, he failed to see how in practice the army could differentiate between persons crossing the lines for family reasons and those crossing for purposes either for smuggling or stealing and sabotage. He therefore thought that the practice of first firing warning shots and then attacking if the shots were not heeded was the only possible one in the circumstances.



J.C. Ingram
Third Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

**JORDAN EXCHANGES
WITH ISRAEL**

ARMISTICE TALKS RESUMED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, SEPT. 18

After the suspension of its meetings for a month and a half the Jordanian-Israeli mixed armistice commission held its first meeting yesterday in Jerusalem. The meeting was the result of negotiations carried out, through the medium of United Nations truce observers, on matters in dispute between Jordanian and Israeli members of the commission.

It was agreed, first, that the Israeli authorities should return to Jordan the two Arab legionaries trapped and held by them on September 4 and that the Jordanian authorities should return to Israeli authorities the two Jewish soldiers held by them on June 9; secondly, that meetings should be held in the Armenian building, near the Mandelbaum Gate, Jerusalem, and that entrance to the building should be made from the Jordan territory side; thirdly, that no firearms should be carried by any member during meetings; fourthly, that the handing over of the two Israeli and two Jordanian prisoners should take place this morning near the Mandelbaum Gate; fifthly, that the next meeting should be held next Wednesday.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

Memo No. 946/52.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 SEP 1952

175/11/29
CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

1st September, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israeli/Jordanian Relations.

Will you please see my memorandum no. 935/52 dated August 27th, 1952 sent by this bag.

2. It was an interesting coincidence that, four days after I signed memorandum no. 935/52, the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. David Ben Gurion, should have made a statement in Parliament on what he described as the "miniature war" in progress on Israel's frontier.

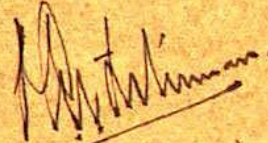
3. The Prime Minister said there were hundreds of thousands of refugees on Israel's borders and the armies of the Arab States sent them across the lines to sabotage and to lay mines. Some infiltrators came to steal and smuggle, and there were expert smugglers in the border villages working with these bands. Arrests did not deter the infiltrators since the conditions in Israel prisons were better than life in the Arab countries. Some deliberately returned in order to be jailed in Israel. The Arab villages in the "triangle", Ben Gurion continued, were centres for smuggling. Israel money, flour, fuel and medicine were smuggled into Jordan and they brought cigarettes, fountain pens and nylons.

4. Ben Gurion said that these smugglers were quick to use their guns. They opened fire on 459 occasions during the past six months when there were 1,518 proved cases of infiltration of which 60 were armed robbery. In 192 cases, telephone lines were cut; 403 mines were laid, and large quantities of irrigation pipes and agricultural equipment were stolen.

5. The Prime Minister said that there had been 200 cases of murder and attempted murder of Jews by Arabs, and that, since January 1st, the Arabs had killed 62 Israelis in armed skirmishes, wounded 110 and captured 29.

6. These day-to-day incidents on the Israeli frontier, apart from any other considerations, are creating a very difficult internal political problem for the Government of Israel, which has now become the target of much press criticism and even of criticism by Government supporters in Parliament who are charging Ben Gurion, as Minister of Defence, with impotence to deal with a situation which is steadily worsening and one which is striking at the very roots of the security of the State.

7. Here it is not without interest to observe that the State of Israel, north of the Negev, comprises only 40% of the whole land area of 13,125 square miles, namely 5,248 square miles, the minimum width of which is $9\frac{1}{2}$ miles and maximum 40 miles. The length of Israel's land frontiers is 370 miles, and of water boundaries (the Mediterranean, the Sea of Galilee, the Dead Sea and Gulf of Aqaba) 160 miles.



(O.C.W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. _____

Memo No. 935/52.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

11 SEP 1952

175/11/29

CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

27th August, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israeli/Jordanian Relations are very strained.

United Nations personnel on the Truce Supervisory Organisation, whose headquarters are in "no-man's land" between the twin cities of Jerusalem, Israel, and the Old City of Jerusalem, Jordan, have said that present heightened tension between Israel and Jordan approaches the intensity which prevailed when the Israelis and Syrians staged a small war in the Huleh region. The fundamental cause of the deterioration of relations between Israel and Jordan is the marked increase in armed infiltration and resulting frontier clashes. These clashes have been serious because regular troops on both sides have been involved. Hitherto, the day-to-day affrays on the border have largely been between armed civilian infiltrators, said to be mostly Jordanians, and Israel Army patrols. Some of these incidents have been followed up by punitive expeditions by Israel Army demolition squads and infantry detachments which have crossed the frontier and penetrated deep into Jordan territory where houses and villages have been blown up and comparatively heavy casualties have been inflicted on numerically small village communities. That much has been factually established on several occasions, but it is very difficult to get at the truth of these incidents. Charges and counter-charges are made by Israel and Jordan and are examined by the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, but the findings of that Commission are very often inconclusive.

2. The seriousness of the present tension lies in the fact that, over the past month or so, the reported frontier clashes have been between regular troops of both sides - the Arab Legion and Israel regular Army units. Infiltration by Armed irregulars has, of course, continued unabated and weekly statistics of Arab casualties, killed, wounded and prisoners, have shown steadily increasing numbers. Israeli casualties in these affrays, between Arab regular troops and/or armed Arab irregulars, are never made known, but, from what one hears from fairly authoritative sources, these clashes are not one-sided affairs and the Arabs "give as good as they get". Hitherto, the Jerusalem frontier has been the scene of most of these incidents, and there is no diminution of armed activity and/or infiltration in that area, but what is disturbing the Israelis at the moment is that the trouble has spread to the Negev frontier where, over the past fortnight, there have been repeated brushes with detachments of the Arab Legion and comparatively heavy casualties on both sides.

Here again the Israelis accuse the Jordanians, Arab Legion patrols, of illegally crossing the border. The Arab Legion invariably deny these charges and accuse Israel Army units of infiltration. The situation is undoubtedly fraught with much danger, and, so far as one can judge, the Mixed Armistice Commission appears powerless to do anything about it. As I write reports are to the effect that there is a complete deadlock in the ordinary work of the Commission.

3. The situation is made no easier by the fact that Israel Army soldiers captured by the Jordanians are now being held and not exchanged for Jordan prisoners as was the practice up to a few months ago; furthermore, this situation is aggravated by a Jordanian threat that Israel Army prisoners, those already captured and any others who might fall into the hands of Jordan troops, are to be court martialled by the Arab Legion.

4. An Old City (Jordan) daily, "ed-Diffa", carried a report from Amman a few days ago, that a Committee of Jordanian Ministers, by which the day-to-day fulfilment of the terms of the Armistice Agreement is over-sighted, has decided that, in retaliation for Israel ill-treatment of Arabs caught in Israel, any Israeli civilian or soldier captured or caught on Jordan soil will, in future, be tried by court martial.

5. The present impotence of the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission is said to stem entirely from the fact that the Chairman, Major-General Bennet de Ridder, a Belgian, is a vacillating, timorous sort of person and entirely incapable of handling the two other members of the Commission - one, an Israel Colonel, Razmatti, and the other a Jordanian - Anwar Nusseiba. Razmatti, whom I know fairly well, is a veteran soldier and a forceful man of particularly strong character. Nusseiba, the Jordanian member, is violently anti-Jewish, and I heard, when in Jordan in June last, that he is a follower of the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem. The task of the Chairman, de Ridder in holding the balance between two such diametrically opposed personalities is by no means enviable and I am fairly certain that de Ridder finds it beyond his capacity to balance the scales of justice evenly and to sift the evidence of the charges brought before the Commission and vehemently and bitterly argued by his Israeli and Jordanian colleagues.

6. The present situation shows marked deterioration over the past three months, and, unless checked, might well develop into an extremely serious breach of the Armistice Agreement.


(O.C.W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.

175/11/29
1/1/6/2
1/1/6/3

Memo No. 933/52.

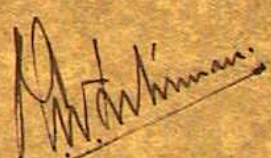
27th August, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA

Subject: Jordanian Affairs: the Palestinian Arabs -
(West of the Jordan).

A report is circulating in Israel, which I have reason to believe has some substance, that the Jordan Prime Minister disclosed at a press conference in Amman on August 23rd, 1952, that a movement is afoot in Arab Palestine aimed at recession from Jordan. This movement is said to be led by twelve Palestinian members of the Jordan Parliament who recently submitted a Memorandum on the subject to the Prime Minister - Abul Huda. The latter is reported to have told the press that documents in possession of the Government showed that this dissident movement was backed by Jews and "certain foreign elements".

627
207/11/1

O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

OCWF/MH



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

22nd August, 1952.

Memo No. 920/52.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Border clashes - the Jerusalem front.

During the week ending August 21st, 1952, two Arab infiltrators were killed, four wounded and twenty-five captured on the Jerusalem front. Elsewhere along the Israel frontier, one Arab was killed, eight wounded and eleven captured over the same period.

2. Israeli casualties in these skirmishes have not been made known.

Handwritten: UN 8/29, 6/29

Signature of O.C.W. Fuhrman
O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister.

OCWF/MH



175/11/29

JORDAN-IRAQ UNION

Commenting on 17th August on the persistent rumours emanating from Arab States about a union between Jordan and Iraq and the possibility of those countries being "annexed by a Third State" (a reference to Syria) the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. David Ben Gurion, said that any such move would be regarded by Israel as a breach of the Israel-Jordan Armistice Agreement.

175/11/29
175/11/25
175/11/24
2nd September, 1952.

175/11/29
Extract from G.H.Q. M.E.L.F. Military Intelligence Review No. 232
of August 1952

On the Jordan frontier tension has continued and the Israeli press has carried regular reports of the killing or capture of infiltrators; however the repetition of minor incidents seems once again to have become accepted as a matter of routine and the excitement of a few months ago has died down. The Jordan Government has repeated its complaint to the Secretary General of the UN concerning General Riley's alleged partiality to Israel. As a result of Arab complaints about alleged Jewish fortifications on Mount Scopus General Riley is reported to have wired Dr. Ralph Bunche, who arranged the armistice in 1949, for verification as to whether Israeli sand-bagged defences seen on Mount Scopus were new or had been there since before the armistice. There is a suggestion that Dr. Bunche may make a visit of inspection to Palestine on behalf of the U.N. Security Council.

...



In reply quote No. $\frac{1/1/6/2}{1/1/7/2}$

Memo No. 894/52.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

18th August, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Rumours about a Union between Jordan & Iraq.

The Prime Minister of Israel, Mr. David Ben Gurion, commented yesterday, August 17th, 1952, on persistent rumours emanating from Arab States about a union between Jordan and Iraq and the possibility of those States being "annexed" by a Third State. He said that any such move would be regarded by Israel as a breach of the Israel/Jordan Armistice Agreement.

copy 175/11/23.

ca

(O.C.W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.

CS

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The London Times

File No.

175/11/29

Published at

Date

26/8/59

**ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER
CLASH**

It was reported from Arab Legion headquarters yesterday that an Israeli patrol crossed the Jordanian boundary in the Jenin district and exchanged fire with a patrol of the national guard. Later the Israelis withdrew and left one soldier killed and carried with the two wounded. The mixed armistice committee left yesterday for the scene to investigate.

175/11/29
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM

RESTRICTED

TO: PM.

FROM:

Australian Legation,
TEL AVIV.

I. 11192.

Dated: 11th August, 1952.
1000.
Recd.: 12th August, 1952.
0830.

106. RESTRICTED.

Talal abdication appears imminent and is expected today 11th August. British Minister in Israel entertains the idea that trouble will or might break in the Jordan and that if it became widespread, Israel might possibly consider the occurrence of any action in the old city. Against this, however, is the view that the Jordan Government could count on loyalty to the Government of the Arab Legion by which internal order would be maintained. Fuhrman.

MIN. & DEPT. E.A.
" " DEFENCE.
P.M.'S.

12th August, 1952.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The London Times

File No.

175/29

Published at

Date

9/8/67

Wounded.—Pte. J. M. Pidoux.

JORDAN FRONTIER CLASH

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, AUG. 8

Arab Legion headquarters report that a patrol of about 30 Israelis armed with automatic weapons crossed the Jordanian frontier in the Aqaba area on Wednesday and from five miles inside Jordanian territory opened fire on local Arabs. An Arab Legion patrol returned the fire and the Israelis withdrew, leaving behind two soldiers killed and some ammunition. The Defence Ministry states that Captain Mohamed Daoud, a member of the Jordanian armistice commission, and two United Nations truce observers have left by air to investigate the incident.

175/11/29

From 175/11/20, Tel Aviv
memo 788 of 21/7/52.

Mr. Sharpe said
that Israel was watching
developments in Jordan,
that he suspected Col.
Spushakly & that Israel
would take no chances
& would be on her
guard.



In reply quote No.

1/1/6/3
1/1/2/3

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

29 JUL 1952

175/11/29
CANBERRA

14th July, 1952.

Memo No. 762/52.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA

Subject: An incident arising out of the fortnightly
convoy to Mount Scopus.

1. Will you please refer to my Memorandum No. 697/52 dated June 30th, 1952.
2. A mysterious 5-gallon grey metal drum, erroneously described in my Memorandum under notice as a "barrel", which has been locked in an anteroom of the United Nations Mixed Armistice Commission offices at the Mandelbaum Gate under Israel armed guard for three weeks was handed back to Israel on July 11th, 1952, but what its contents were remained as intriguing a mystery as when I first reported the matter.
3. Reports from Amman are to the effect that Jordan is expected to protest to United Nations Headquarters over the return of the drum to Israel by General William Riley, the U.N. Chief of Staff, after he had inspected it. It was removed from a Mt. Scopus convoy for inspection by a United Nations Observer on June 4th, 1952.
4. In connection with this incident, the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued the following statement yesterday, July 13th:

1. Since the cessation of hostilities, regular convoys have been proceeding to the Israel area on Mt. Scopus after U.N. observers have inspected the items sent in the convoys and checked them against the manifest.

2. On June 4th one of the oil drums included in the load was queried, and the U.N. officer present wished to break it open. The Israel representative denied his right to do so in principle and suggested instead that the drum should be returned as was done on previous occasions to similar circumstances. The drum was thereupon placed in custody in the Mandelbaum building, and the U.N. and the Israel military authorities placed additional guards inside the building, pending a decision by General Riley, who was at that time on leave in the United States. The convoy proceeded to Mt. Scopus.

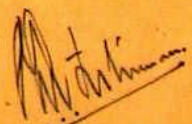
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+The underlining is mine.

OCWF

14th July, 1952.

3. Following General Riley's return, he inspected the drum on July 10th, in the presence of Israel and Jordan representatives and checked it against the manifest. Authorization was not given for the drum to be sent to Mr. Scopus, and it was accordingly returned to the Israel authorities. The building is Israel property situated on Israel territory. Certain of the rooms in it had been placed at the disposal of the Mixed Armistice Commission by courtesy of the Israel Government, while the rest of the building remained in use by various Israel Government departments.
4. All other misunderstandings which arose between U.N. personnel and Israel representatives in the course of this dispute have been amicably settled.
5. An Arab Legion headquarters spokesman, quoted by the Near East Broadcasting correspondent in Amman, said that when General Riley opened the bung of the drum, which according to the Israel manifest, contained fuel oil, and pushed a metal rod into the opening, "the rod would not go into the drum. There was some solid object or objects in the drum which prevented the rod being pushed right in", he concluded.
6. But the withdrawal on July 11th of the Israel military police, armed with sub-machine guns, who had guarded the drum for three weeks, ended what United Nations officials in Jerusalem have described as "one of the most delicate and serious crises of the U.N. Armistice."
7. Beirut Radio last week quoted a statement issued in Amman by General Riley to the effect that the disputed barrel was under constant U.N. guard, and he personally accepted responsibility for inspecting it. It would then be returned to Israel since it was still on Israel territory, as the building in which the Mixed Armistice Commission had its offices did not belong to the United Nations but to Israel.
8. I am attaching a news-cutting taken from the London "Times" of July 8th, 1952. I regret that I have but one copy of this excerpt.



D.C. W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister

Enc. 1
CCWP/MSH

JEWISH OCCUPATION OF U.N. OFFICES

OIL DRUM CONTROVERSY

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

JERUSALEM, JULY 7

General Riley, the United Nations Chief of Staff for the Arab-Israeli armistice, has gone to Tel Aviv to take up with the Israeli Foreign Ministry the occupation by armed Jewish troops of the Mixed Armistice Commission offices in Jerusalem, which has now lasted for 17 days, and has created a delicate situation.

General Riley is expected to make a firm demand for the withdrawal of the Jewish troops from the offices, which it is held should be inviolable to military forces of either side. The offices are on the first floor of a building just inside Jewish-controlled territory near the Mandelbaum Gate, and are used by General de Ridder, Belgian head of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission, and French, Belgian and American officers who act as observers for the commission.

On the orders of General Riley—then in the United States—arrangements had been made to examine at noon on June 20 an oil drum which had been removed to the armistice commission offices from one of the Israel fortnightly convoys to Hadassah hospital on demilitarized Mount Scopus. Just before noon an Israeli captain with eight armed military police entered the offices and refused to allow the examination to proceed.

The oil drum is in the lavatory which separates General de Ridder's room from that of the military observers. The door is secured by two padlocks, one fixed by the Mixed Armistice Commission officials, and the other by the Israelis. Outside the door stand two Israeli armed police. In the observers' room sit unarmed United Nations staff, also keeping 24-hour watch.

General Riley's deputies are understood to have protested unsuccessfully to the Israel Foreign Ministry, and General Riley had conversations with the Israel delegation to the United Nations in New York. Agreement is said to have been reached in New York on a basis that the Israelis remove their armed guards and padlock, and that the oil drum remain in the custody of the Mixed Armistice Commission without examination until General Riley should return. The Israel Foreign Office, however, interpreted the agreement to mean the withdrawal also of the United Nations unarmed guards. That, of course, would scarcely have been consistent with the Mixed Armistice Commission's responsibility to Jordan as well as to Israel for the safe custody of the oil drum.

The Jewish Press and radio have made no mention of the affair.

1/1/2/8
1/1/6/3

Memo No..805/52

25th July, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Frontier Clashes and Incidents on the
Israel/Jordan Border.

On July 16th, 1952, five Israeli watchmen guarding property being prospected for copper in the Negev, were shot and killed. The incident was referred to the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission by which a meeting was held on July 24th and presided over by General H. Bennett de Ridder. The Israelis charged the Jordanians with the commission of the crime. The Jordanians, on their part, denied any knowledge of the incident or complicity in the shooting of these men.

2. The Commission, after examining all the evidence, decided that there was "no case against Jordan or the Arab Legion."

3. The Israeli member of the Armistice Commission is said to have asked General de Ridder, in the course of the enquiry, why the evidence was insufficient to establish a case, and, according to the press, de Ridder's reply was:

"The investigation was hampered by the fact that the bodies were missing from the spot. As for the blood stains, there is room for debate as to whether a donkey had not been killed there, and its blood spread round in order to confuse the investigations."

4. In the course of a press interview subsequent to the M.A.C. meeting, an Israel Army spokesman, commenting on de Ridder's statement, said:

"This attitude of mind on the part of the Chairman of the M.A.C. shows conclusively the U.N. staff's complete subordination to the incessant pressure and propaganda of the Jordanians." "This is not the first time they have decided in favour of Jordan contrary to all logic and objective justice." Other instances can be quoted, e.g. at a meeting called to deal with the killing of an Arab guard at Yalu village, the M.A.C. chairman voted with the Jordan delegation even though the body had been removed and there were no tracks leading to Israel territory. In another instance, that of the murder in Netza, General de Ridder abstained from voting with Israel against Jordan even though the marauding gang fled at it crossed the

2.

border. The names of the members of this gang were submitted to the Jordan authorities, but even this did not affect the chairman's vote."

5. My only comment on the decision of the M.A.C. in regard to the killing of the five watchmen in the Negev, is that, in establishing "no case against Jordan", de Ridder knew something! I shall ask him when we next meet.

— 0 —

6. During the week ending July 24th, 1952, four Arab infiltrators were killed and seventeen taken prisoners by Israel Army detachments. Israeli casualties and/or losses are not known.


(O.C. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

18 JUL 1952

CANBERRA.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No. 725.

7th July, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: The Israel/Jordan Frontier

During the week ending July 6th, 1952, frontier clashes on the Israel/Jordan frontier, in the vicinity of Jerusalem, resulted in 5 Jordanians being killed, 5 wounded and 26 captured. Israel casualties have not been made known - beyond a brief statement to the effect that: "a number of Israeli casualties occurred in the course of these operations."

ce

(O.C.W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.

6/7 - 12/7/52

C.S.



1/1/2/3

Memo No. 697/52

175/4/27

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.

TEL AVIV.

30th June, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: The fortnightly convoy to Mount Scopus

I reported recently (see memorandum No. 685/52 of June 27th, 1952) that tension on the Israel-Jordan frontier has lately increased. Another incident, which on the Prime Minister's instructions has been withheld from the Press, has lately come to my notice.

2. It would seem that when the most recent Israel convoy to Mount Scopus (Hebrew University, Hadassah Hospital) was examined prior to its departure by United Nations personnel, a large barrel was found which, on the surface, appeared suspicious. The United Nations officers requested that it be opened so that they might examine its contents. This the Israelis refused to allow. They stated, however, that they would not send the offending barrel but would allow it to be placed in the Mixed Armistice Commission Headquarters at the Mandelbaum Gate. This was done and, in view of the Israel attitude, the commanding officer of the United Nations Forces drafted a report to General Riley seeking his instructions as to the appropriate course to pursue.

3. In the meantime, however, a "Jerusalem Post" correspondent, Ted L. Lurie, got in touch with General Riley and gave him the Israel version of the incident and so convinced him that the Israelis were able to say to the United Nations forces in Jerusalem that the barrel must be released. General Riley later received the report of his own officers and decided that, in the circumstances, the barrel must be opened. When the U.N. officers proceeded to implement these instructions, they were met at the Armistice Commission Headquarters by three Israeli guards armed with Sten guns who stated they had received instructions that no one was permitted to interfere with the barrel.

It would seem that, in the opinion of the United Nations observers, the Israel action is wholly illegal since the Mandelbaum Gate House is the seat of the Mixed Armistice Commission and furthermore lies in "no-man's land". The Jews maintain, however, that the House lies in Israel territory and admit only that the particular area may not be fortified in any way; that it does not lie in any extra-territorial ground but only in a demilitarized zone.

5. The Jordanians have witnessed these developments with glee. They have always maintained that contraband material is included in the convoy to Mount Scopus. Now there seems some basis for their suspicions and in view of the heightened tension on the Jordan/Israel border they may not feel disposed to let future convoys pass unhindered.

CCNY/CO

(G. M. M. Rahman)
Australian Minister



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

14 JUL 1952

175/11/29

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

27th June, 1952.

In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3
1/1/2/8

Memo No. 685/52

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Frontier tension in Israel

I have so many times written on border clashes and tension on Israel's frontiers that I am afraid the Department might think that I am unduly labouring this subject. Such, however, is not the case, and the increasing frequency of frontier clashes on the Israel/Jordan and Israel/Syrian borders has become a problem of much seriousness; indeed, present tension on the Israel/Jordan border is, in fact, imperilling continuance of the uneasy temporary "peace" provided under the terms of the Rhodes Armistice Agreement.

2. Scarcely a day passes in Israel without reports of frontier incidents resulting in loss of life and property. The past year, in particular, has produced a continuous record of border banditry, attacks and killing - from the Syrians firing into the settlement of Ein Gev on the Sea of Galilee, to sporadic fire at Kalkilya and the latest ambush and killing of Israel soldiers on the Jerusalem border and the killing of a police inspector at Nathanya. I suggest that a map be studied so that an idea may be formed of the extent of the frontier along which these incidents occur. Arab infiltrators, although frequently repulsed with heavy losses on their side, have become a permanent threat to settlements in outlying districts and those well inside the country are far from being safe.

4 Israel Soldiers Killed in Ambush On J'lem Border

Four Israel soldiers were killed when a large contingent of Arabs ambushed a small guard on a routine patrol northwest of Jerusalem yesterday. A battle took place between the Arabs and the Israel forces that came to the patrol's aid. Enemy losses are as yet unknown. It was announced last night.

An inquiry committee of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission went out to the site of the battle to ascertain whether it was in Israel or Jordan. Army authorities are also investigating the circumstances of the incident as well as the possibility that the lines may have been crossed by mistake.

The body of a soldier and two wounded Army men were brought to Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem yesterday, ITIM reported.

One of the injured men was sent to a military camp after treatment while the other remained in hospital.

INSPECTOR KILLED

NATHANYA, Monday (ITIM) — Second Inspector Avraham Levi, 29, was shot and killed by Arab Legionnaires while he was patrolling the Israel side of the frontier this morning.

The incident took place at 10.30. When a police party arrived six hours later to recover his body they were also fired upon, but none was hurt.

The body of Mr. Levi, who leaves a wife and three children, was taken to Haifa. The funeral will be held at nine o'clock Tuesday morning.

3. I do not entirely hold a brief for Israel in this matter, for it is well known, though naturally not admitted, that Israel army detachments frequently carry out deadly forays into Arab territory, but to give the Israelis their due, these incursions have mainly been in the nature of punitive expeditions - although there have been quite a few occasions when Israel troops have unjustifiably and without good cause or reason breached the frontier for some local tactical operation.

4. The Israel authorities have made serious attempts, since February last, to come to some sort of an agreement with the Jordan military command to stop infiltration and smuggling, but, after a temporary falling-off in infiltration due to tightening up of control in Jordan, violence has again become more pointed, widespread and general. Not the least disquieting feature is that this violence appears to stem from members of the Jordan forces, the Arab Legion and the National Guard, rather than from smugglers and infiltrators. Foreign observers in Israel, by whom the Armistice Agreements have frequently been criticised as being indifferent substitutes for firm peace pacts, have had their opinions fully vindicated. But it is idle, at this stage, to indulge in recrimination - especially since United Nations observers are on the spot, and since their efforts have been and are directed towards ensuring observance of the Armistice Agreements. On the

whole, these observers have done a remarkably good job under extremely difficult circumstances and conditions, but, latterly, the parties to the Agreements mentioned are tending more and more to express contempt, by act and word, for the authority of United Nations personnel in this area and for United Nations peace instruments.

5. The causes of the unrest are not far to seek. Israel has disproportionately long, and in parts insufficiently demarcated frontiers to the north, east and south, which almost inevitably lead to frequent border infringements and clashes. It is scarcely possible for either Israel or Jordan to place guards along the whole length of these frontiers or to build another Tegar Wall on the lines of the northern frontier fence erected by the British during the disturbances in 1938. In certain specially exposed areas the latter might, however, prove worthwhile.

6. Organized and large-scale smuggling is a main incentive to border crossings. The theft of every kind of property, from livestock to irrigation pipes and telephone wires, and lately even bread, has become "Big Business" in neighbouring Arab States, and is operated by large and well-equipped gangs. But smuggling goes on in both directions, despite vigorous attempts at control by Israel police. It has been and is Israel's misfortune that dire food shortages exist in this country, and that certain of the Arab States can, to some extent, bridge that gap - even though those engaged in smuggling risk death - witness the 11 infiltrators killed, three wounded and 16 captured during a single week recently: see my memorandum No. 644/52 dated June 16th, 1952.

7. It is an equal drawback that Jordan, in its present political and social upheaval, with an absentee King and a discredited prince, eyed hungrily by a throneless cousin from Iraq, is far too pre-occupied with pressing internal affairs to think about supervising the infiltration or stopping local frontier commanders from trying out their weapons. Nevertheless, the Jordan Government must, at some time or other, pose itself the question: "How long will the Israel Army suffer this steady drain on its manpower without retaliating?"

8. There is room for agreement between Israel and Jordan, and it is not for lack of expressed desire on Israel's part that it has not yet been reached - although it must be said that the Israelis have always proved most difficult, obstinate and over-bearing in negotiation with the Arabs. And of Jordan it can truthfully be said that there was certainly no time in Jordan's history when it was more desperately in need of a friendly neighbour than today, especially since every Arab neighbour is casting covetous eyes on Jordan territory.

* Boundaries	Length in Kilometres
Israel-Lebanon	79
Israel-Syria	76
Israel-Hashemite Jordan Kingdom and former Palestinian areas now under its control	531
Israel-Egypt and former Palestinian areas now under its control	265
Total	951
Mediterranean Coast	188
Dead Sea Coast	56
Elath (Red Sea) Coast	10.5
Total	254.5

9. The tension between Israel and her Arab neighbours has, of course, been discussed in London, during the past few days, by British Middle East diplomatic representatives, by whom, I believe, the opinion was expressed that prospects for a settlement of the Israel/Arab conflict are still most remote, and that the continued Arab/Israel tension is militating against concerted defence plans in this area; also that Anglo/Egyptian agreement on mutual problems and on over-all Middle East defence would necessarily have to precede any betterment in Arab/Israel relations.

10. From Cairo, a report has reached Israel that the Secretary-General of the Arab League, Azzam Pasha, told a delegation of the American Christian Palestine Committee that there was no hope of peace between the Arabs and Israel. The delegation, comprising 30 professors, clergymen and journalists, is touring the Middle East to study the conditions of Israel and Arab countries. Asked if there were any signs of a peace with Israel, Azzam Pasha said: "That the Jews have done and are doing leaves no way open for such a peace. The Arabs do not think of making peace with the Israelis." Azzam Pasha went on to say that "the U.S.A. helped the Jews in their attacks on the Arabs. The American conscience must accept responsibility for the invasion."

11. In my opinion, the frontier situation has deteriorated very badly over the past few months and it would be over-optimistic were one to draw any conclusions other than that a serious clash-at-arms with Jordan would seem inevitable in the near future. Everything tends to point that way.


(O. G. W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister

CGW/CO

THE JERUSALEM POST

Thursday, June 26th, 1952.

P.M. Against Debate On Jordan Killings

The Prime Minister yesterday opposed a discussion on the killing of four Israeli soldiers in a clash with Jordan forces near Jerusalem this week. "It would cause us grievous harm," he said.

Mrs. Esther Razieli-Naor (Herut) had asked for a debate which Speaker Yosef Sprinzak ruled out of order because the request had not been submitted in writing.

There were heated exchanges across the floor and Mr. Haim Landau (Herut) said, "This is a matter of blood and not a matter of administration!"

Mr. Ben Gurion then took the floor and said that if the Speaker would allow the motion for debate, he would oppose it. "I do not think anyone has a monopoly on evaluating Jewish blood," he added.

He said he would supply information to the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

8 Infiltrators Shot Crossing Lines

Three infiltrators were killed and five were wounded yesterday after they refused to halt while crossing the lines in the Triangle area, an Army spokesman said yesterday.

SHOTS ON BORDER

HAIFA, Wednesday. — While working on the demarcation of the Israel-Jordan border along the "triangle," Shmuel Azulai and his team were fired on from the Arab side. No one was hurt.

U.N. OFFICIALS VISIT HELD ISRAELI SOLDIERS

U.N. officials visited two Israeli soldiers held by the Arab Legion on Tuesday afternoon, an Army spokesman said yesterday. Upon their return, the officials said the soldiers were being well treated.

Armed Men In J'lem Suburb

A group of armed men, dressed in khaki, were observed in a Jerusalem suburb on Tuesday night, several residents told police yesterday.

When challenged by civilians, the men drew weapons. Two women later reported that household utensils were stolen from their flats.

Police and Soldiers Buried In Jerusalem

The body of Second Inspector Avraham Levi, who was killed by Arab Legionnaires in the "Little Triangle" on Monday, was buried in Mt. Herzl military cemetery yesterday. Senior police officials attended.

The funeral procession started from the Avihayil Military Hospital in Jerusalem. Three volleys were fired over the open grave by a police guard.

Two of the soldiers killed in the border ambush near Jerusalem on Monday were also buried on Mt. Herzl yesterday.

The bodies of the two other soldiers killed in the same ambush were sent to Haifa for burial at the request of the families. (Itim)

Surveyors Fired Upon

A group of Jewish National Fund surveyors was fired upon by Arabs in the "Little Triangle" on Wednesday, an Army spokesman announced yesterday. No one was hurt.

14 Killed

Fourteen marauders were killed, two wounded and 26 detained during the 16-day period ending yesterday, the spokesman said.



In reply quote No. 1/1/6/3

Memo No. 665/52



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

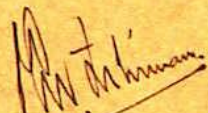
23rd June, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Israel/Jordan frontier incidents - Mount Scopus

Newspapers published in the Old City of Jerusalem on June 22nd, 1952, reported a heavy exchange of fire on the previous day between Israel guards on Mount Scopus and Arab Legionnaires and detachments of the Jordan National Guard. The Jordanians allege that Israel troops entered Jordan near the demilitarized zone and refused to leave after being challenged.


(O. E. W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister

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Handwritten notes:
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In reply quote No.

Memo No. 644/52



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

16th June, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA

Subject: Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier

1. Tension on the Israel/Jordan frontier, mostly in the vicinity of Jerusalem, continues and has been heightened considerably by the political uncertainty existing in Jordan following the crisis and constitutional changes arising out of the illness of King Talal.

2. The attached news-cutting, taken from the "Jerusalem Post" of June 16th, records the casualties among Jordanian infiltrators for the week ending June 15th, 1952. Israeli casualties are not known, but the attachments to this Memorandum show how extremely tense the situation is. I heard from the Israel Chief-of-Staff, Rav Aloof Yadin, who lunched with me a few days ago, that the Kalkiliya incident was

**30 INFILTRATORS
LAST WEEK**

Eleven marauders were killed, three wounded and 16 captured in the week ending Sunday, an Army spokesman announced yesterday.

extremely serious, and that, had it not been resolved, Israel "might have been forced to give grave consideration to cancelling the Rhodes Armistice Agreement with Jordan." Yadin made this remark in the presence of the British Minister, Sir Francis Evans, and the then British Air Attaché - Wing Commander A.J. O'Neill, D.F.C.

3. Another situation of some gravity has arisen in the Mount Scopus area. A Jordan allegation, telegraphed a few days ago to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, stated that Israel is digging and constructing fortifications in Arab territory north-east of Jerusalem. The Jordan Foreign Office claims that where the Israelis are operating adjoins the demilitarized area of Mount Scopus; also that any delay in settling this complaint would "lead to grave consequences." In connection with this alleged encroachment by Israeli forces, a report from Arab Legion Headquarters stated that, on June 13th, two Israel armoured cars were sighted inside an area near the Latrun salient, in the region where only defensive installations are permitted according to the Armistice Agreement. The Legion also reported that an Israel patrol of platoon strength crossed halfway into the no-man's-land on June 14th, 1952 and opened fire. The Arab guards replied. The Israel Army Headquarters have refuted these Jordan charges.

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O.C.W. Fuhrman
Australian Minister

OOWF/ME

THE JERUSALEM POST

Thursday, June 5th, 1952.

Israel Soldier Killed on Border

An Israel soldier was killed yesterday afternoon during a two-hour gun battle with the Arab Legion near Kalkiliya, in the Jordan "Triangle," an Army spokesman announced yesterday. A sharp protest has been lodged with the Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission and both MAC and UN observers are now at the scene it was said.

At 3:30 yesterday afternoon, a group of Israelis, accompanied by UN observers, went out to harvest vegetables and were fired upon. The body of the dead soldier has been recovered, it was said.

The Army spokesman stressed that the vegetables were growing within Israel territory as defined by the armistice lines fixed on March 23, 1952 in the presence of the senior Jordan MAC delegate and UN officials.

The soldier's family has been notified.

The Haifa-Tel Aviv train returned to Hadera Wednesday afternoon from Kakun when heavy shooting was reported from the direction of Tulkarm. It is believed that the exchange of fire heard was actually from the direction of the Kalkiliya border further south. Passengers were taken on to Tel Aviv from Hadera by Eshed buses.

Arabs Fire on Israel Officer, UN Observer

Intensive fire was opened on Sgan Aluf Shaul Ramati and a U.N. observer from an Arab Legion emplacement recently near Katana village, in the Jerusalem area, an Army spokesman announced yesterday. They were en route to meet a Jordan Mixed Armistice delegate and another U.N. observer at the spot where an Israel soldier was killed last Friday.

Sgan Aluf Ramati and the U.N. observer were forced to run from cover to cover to reach the actual spot where the meeting with the Jordan delegation was to take place, it was said. Only then did the fire stop.

The on-the-spot investigation revealed that the Israel soldier had not been killed on the border as Jordan claimed, but about 300 yards within Israel and that his



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Sporadic Fire At Kalkiliya

TEL AVIV, Thursday.—Sporadic firing continued all day across vegetable fields north of Kalkiliya, where an Israel soldier was killed by Arab Legion fire yesterday. The MAC is scheduled to convene at the spot at nine o'clock tomorrow morning to investigate, it was announced here today.

The incident occurred yesterday afternoon, while Israel soldiers were marking the boundary according to the agreement reached on March 23 by the Israel-Jordan MAC which confirmed that about eight dunams of flat land between Jordan-held Kalkiliya and the Israel settlement Ayai was in Israel territory according to the Rhodes armistice agreement, although Arabs from Kalkiliya have planted vegetables there. Mukhtars of Kalkiliya had been warned, through MAC, not to continue with the cultivation of the fields.

When the Frontier Demarcation Sub-Commission of the Israel-Jordan MAC reached the contested field two days ago, the Jordanians refused to proceed. When the Israelis continued with the demarcation work yesterday afternoon, Arab Legionaries, stationed on high ground nearby, opened fire on men who picked vegetables in the disputed field. No work in the field was done today.

An Israel civilian was injured by Arab Legion fire on Wednesday while driving in his car on a near-by road, it was learned yesterday.

Jordan Communiqué

A Jordan communiqué, quoted by NEBS yesterday, said that an Israel soldier was killed and another wounded on Wednesday afternoon when National Guardsmen returned fire opened by Israel soldiers near Kalkiliya village. The Israel soldiers previously had destroyed crops in Jordan, the communiqué said.

THE JERUSALEM POST

FRIDAY JUNE 6th. 1952.

Jordan's Threat to Fire On T.A.-Jerusalem Road 'Mistake'

A Jordan ultimatum that fire would be opened on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road if fire in the direction of Imwas village, in the Jerusalem area, was not stopped by one o'clock Friday afternoon, was formally withdrawn yesterday. In his apology at the Mixed Armistice Commission meeting at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem yesterday, the Jordan delegate expressed his "amazement" that such a threat had been made, according to the communique on the meeting. Neither the Arab Legion nor the Jordan Government knew of the ultimatum, which was made by a local commander who evidently misunderstood orders, he said. The Jordan delegate said that the commander had been reprimanded.

The Jordan delegate agreed that the ultimatum was a violation of the General Armistice Agreement by which both sides renounced the use of force to settle disputes, the communique stated.

The M.A.C. condemned Jordan for opening fire last Wednesday in the Kalkiliya area, in the Jordan-held "Triangle", during which an Israel soldier was killed inside Israel.

Contrary to Agreement

The shooting by Israel in reply to Legion fire was contrary to the Armistice Agreement, it was ruled. The communique stated that Israel claimed that its fire had been defensive, since it was covering the withdrawal of workers from the fields, and was a reply to repeated Jordan fire. The M.A.C. rejected mutual allegations that the other side had crossed the demarcation line.

At a MAC meeting held near Kalkiliya on Friday, the armistice line was marked. Following the demarcation, Major Izhak assembled local mukhtars and said that the Arab Legion would withdraw and leave them unprotected if they opened fire again. In the firing on Wednesday and Thursday, the Arabs suffered at least ten casualties.

After the demarcation, made by a half-track and plough, the vegetables were collected in the disputed area.

Two Jordan complaints were lodged at the meeting. One stated that Israel soldiers entered Yalu village, near Latrun, killing a night watchman and stealing his rifle. A sub-committee, accompanied by a U.N. observer, left on Friday to investigate.

Jordan also complained that Israel soldiers were shooting at Arab harvesters in no-man's land near Imwas near Latrun. The Arab Legion officer at the scene, subsequently issued the ultimatum, that fire would be opened on the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem road.

The killing of an Israel soldier near Kalkiliya on Wednesday, was ruled a Jordan viola-

violation of the agreement by permitting her security forces to cross into Israel in this sector. All Arab witnesses interrogated claimed that they crossed the lines when they saw Jordan forces doing the same.

In informal discussions, the senior delegates reached a tentative agreement to settle the question of the illegally cultivated crops in the Latrun no-man's-land area. Final confirmation by the Jordan Government is expected in two days, it was reported.

A M.A.C. sub-committee is to go to Bet Kikka, in the Jerusalem area, today to complete investigations into the killing of an Arab infiltrator there about a fortnight ago.

The M.A.C. is to meet again next Tuesday to continue discussions on mutual complaints.

Israel was represented by Span Aluf Shaul Ramati and Rav Seren Samuel Nutoy and Jordan by Major Mohammed Izhak and Lt. Mohammed Danad. Col. Bennett L. de Ridder, U.N. chairman, was in the chair.

A Jordan National Guardsman was killed and an Arab woman seriously injured in new clashes with Israel soldiers at Yalu village, northwest of Jerusalem, on Friday, NEBS reported.

Three Arabs were killed and six injured in the fight for Kalkiliya, "A-Diffa", the Old City daily reports.

Several thousand Arabs have been killed along the lines in the past two years, the paper says.

Seven Arab infiltrators were repatriated at a meeting of local commanders near the Bet Guvrin armistice lines on Thursday, "A-Diffa" reports.

According to ANA, three Israel soldiers were killed in an armed clash with Jordan National Guards at Falamiah village near Tul-karem, on Thursday. Arms and ammunition reportedly were found on the spot after the soldiers retreated, it was claimed, and UN observers were called to the scene.



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THE JERUSALEM POST

Friday, June 13th, 1952.

2 Israel Soldiers Taken Prisoner By Arab Legion

TEL AVIV, Thursday. — Two Israel soldiers were taken prisoner by the Arab Legion on the night of Monday-Tuesday. It became known here today. The soldiers were on night manoeuvres, and the circumstances of their disappearance are as yet unknown. The Jordan members of the MAC denied on Tuesday they had any knowledge of the two, but on Wednesday admitted the Israelis were their prisoners. They refused, however, to reveal how they were taken.

Reports that "a battle" took place at Imwas village, in the Latrun demilitarized zone, earlier this week were being circulated in Jordan, it is learned here. On Tuesday, shortly before midnight, the Jordan MAC delegation complained to the U.N. staff that a battle was raging in the Imwas area. Israel officers were despatched immediately on the receipt of the information to investigate the matter. They patrolled along the border line in the vicinity, but did not hear a shot. The U.N. was informed the "battle" was a fiction. (The Old City daily, "A-Difa'a," had described "a two-hour battle that raged in Imwas" this week. Two wounded Israel soldiers were taken prisoner after the Israel forces retreated, suffering many casualties, the paper added.)

The military spokesman said here today there was no encounter in the Imwas area. The "battle," it is believed, has been invented by the Jordanians to cover the kidnapping of the Israel soldiers.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

Amman Jordan Times

File No.

175/11/29

Published at

12-30 Amman

Date

23/6/57

An Israeli army spokesman stated in Tel Aviv last night that four Israeli soldiers were killed on the Israeli border by a band of Arabs. The spokesman also claimed that a Jewish police inspector was killed by troops of the Arab Legion while inspecting another part of the border. The U.N. Palestine Commission is investigating these allegations. 1213/14



In reply quote No. S.1/5/9

Memo. No. 440/52

P.O. Box 273

DEPARTMENT OF
AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
CAIRO.

13th. June, 1952

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan and Israel

The denial given on the 20th May by the Prime Minister of Jordan, Abul Hoda Pasha, that Jordan was ~~not~~ negotiating a separate peace with Israel (see our Memorandum No. 411 of the 28th. May) was reiterated by him on the 29th. May, since his earlier declaration had failed to curb the current rumours both inside and outside Jordan.

The Premier asserted that Jordan would not reach a settlement with the Jews, and would not concede to Israel any part of Jordan's territory. He categorically denied a Syrian report that some Jordanese territory in the Latrun area had already been handed over to the Jews.

Abul Hoda Pasha reiterated and re-emphasized that Jordan was in complete agreement on the questions of the moment with the other Arab States, and stated, "I must stress that if it were in the interests of Jordan to make peace or reach a settlement with the Jews without a general Arab agreement on this question, I shall not be the person to do so. I have laid down a policy which is definite and clear. If I changed that policy I would lose the confidence of my friends and the respect of my enemies."

The Arab Press have over the past few days been giving alarming reports that the truce between Jordan and Israel would expire during June, and that frontier incidents could then be expected between the two countries. These stories were likewise denied by the Premier, who stated that the Jordan-Israeli truce agreement, like those concluded by the other Arab States with the Jews, had no time limit.

Reports that Jordan was negotiating a separate peace with Israel were described by the Premier on the 29th. May not only as false, but also as wishful thinking and as subversive efforts by Jordan's enemies. The reports, he claimed, were being spread by the enemies of the country in a bid to create panic in Jordan.

It is not clear whether the Premier, in his mention of enemies, was referring to Jordanese or Israeli subjects. Certainly, several Jordanese including two former Government employees were arrested in Jordan on the 29th. May on charges of spreading rumours concerning peace talks with Israel and the abdication of King Talal.

/s...

But the Prime Minister could equally have been referring to Jews, and in this connection it is interesting to note the view of General Riley, United Nations Chief-of-Staff in the Middle East, that the current rumours concerning Arab willingness to discuss peace with Israel were mostly emanating from Jewish sources (see Tel Aviv's Memorandum No.326 of the 28th. March). There seems to be further evidence that this view might be correct, since, although the Jordanese Prime Minister has stoutly denied any peace overtures with Israel, Israeli sources have continued to maintain that informal negotiations had actually been taking place for some months. The London Times correspondent in Tel Aviv reported on the 2nd. June that Israel believed that she had made important concessions in order to secure agreement with Amman and that as a result Syria had been persuaded to enter into negotiations with Israel on their mutual frontier.

If the reports that informal negotiations had taken place between Israel and Jordan are merely Israeli propaganda, then it must be admitted that the propaganda has been extraordinarily efficient. It was even given official backing on the 8th. June when the Israeli Foreign Minister was reported to have declared that Jordan's denial that informal negotiations had taken place was merely "intended to divert public opinion in Jordan from the internal crisis."

A copy of this Memorandum has been forwarded to the Australian Legation, Tel Aviv.


Minister

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

An Israeli army spokesman stated in Tel Aviv last night that four Israeli soldiers were killed on the Israeli border by a band of Arabs. The spokesman also claimed that a Jewish police inspector was killed by troops of the Arab Legion while inspecting another part of the border. The U.N. Palestine Commission is investigating these allegations.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

'Jerusalem Post' on the Situation in Jordan

In its editorial article of 8th June, 'Jerusalem Post' said: "Before the Talal crisis broke informal discussions were being carried on between Israeli and Jordanian representatives. Their aim was to carry out mutually advantageous adjustments to the Rhodes Armistice line, helping to reunite several villages with their land and reducing the Latrun (one word indistinct) with its present aggravating transport problem without giving its border armies any positive advantage. This agreement would have effected a considerable reduction in border incidents many of which occur when villages attempt to cultivate their former land lying on the opposite side of the armistice line, incidents which often cause loss of life as well as business and economic losses on both sides. Notably, the villages

of the Qalqilya area would have been reunited with their land, as they were surprised to learn from an Israeli delegate to the Mixed Armistice Commission who visited the area on 6th June. Israel made substantial concessions in order to secure agreement with Jordan, and there is no doubt that the Arab villages involved in supposed exchanges, insofar as they were aware of the negotiations, welcomed the plan even where it might have meant a transfer to Israel. The Arabs would have benefited immeasurably by the reunion of villages and land separated as a result of the Rhodes Armistice Delineation of the frontier. The Jordan Government's rejection of this plan and the subsequent denials that discussions had ever taken place result partly from the (unusual) political atmosphere inside Jordan and occupied Palestine, where revenge can still draw louder applause than welfare, and are partly a result of the constitutional crisis which has shaken the Government so that it can devote its attention only to the problem of survival." (Voice of Zion in English 20.15, 9.6.52)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No. 175/11/29

Published at

Date 17/6/59

Commentary in Arabic on King Talal

The following passages were broadcast in the course of a commentary given by the Israeli radio in Arabic on 11th June:

"For the second time the Jordanian throne is passing through a new crisis of a complicated nature. It appears that the fate of King Talal has been decided and that everyone, including the Transjordan Premier, concluded that King Talal is unfit to carry out his duties under the Constitution. This makes it imperative to enthrone the heir, Prince Hussein. The principal problem is the creation of a Regency Council to replace the present deputising body.

"It is known that the Jordanian Premier strongly objects to the participation of any member of the Jordan Hashemite family in this Regency Council. The basic objective of Abu Al-Huda Pasha is to ensure for himself a place in this Council, while members of the Hashemite family headed by the Iraqi Regent want a member of their family to join the Regency Council in order to safeguard the interests of the family until Prince Hussein becomes of age.

"The Jordanian Premier has assumed responsibilities which no Premier or King would dare to take; one wonders whether such a thing could happen in a country with a truly democratic regime.

"Israel knows that the situation in Transjordan is purely internal and that the Transjordanians are free to do as they please inside their own country. Israel will continue to consider the Transjordan throne question as an internal one so long as the prospective changes in Transjordan do not lead to the passing over of the Transjordan throne to Iraq, the bringing in of another country along our border with whom we did not sign an armistice agreement, or any other hostile country.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The London Times

File No.

Published at

Date

10/2/52

**JEWISH ATTACK ON ARAB
VILLAGERS ALLEGED**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JUNE 15

It was reported from Arab Legion headquarters to-day that while Arab villagers of Beit Ikse, which is north-west of Jerusalem, were harvesting their lands yesterday, a Jewish force infiltrated from the Jewish side and opened fire on the villagers. The Beit Ikse village guards fired back and forced the Jews to withdraw, leaving behind them one dead Jewish soldier. The body of the soldier was left where it was found until to-day for the arrival of the truce observers who are to investigate the matter.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

Statement on the Jordanian Crisis

The spokesman of the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that the confusion created in "Transjordan" by King Talal's illness was an internal matter for "Transjordan" and that it was not for Israel to intervene. In reply to a question, he said that, if changes occurred in the status of "Transjordan", the Israeli statement issued after the assassination of King Abdullah would still stand. This statement said that Israel was linked by an Armistice Agreement with "Transjordan" as it was; any change in the status of that country was liable to affect the validity of the Agreement. (Israel in Hebrew 17.30, 8.6.52)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

175/11/29

Published at

Date

12/6/52

JORDAN WARNS ON ISRAEL

Urges Speedy Action by U.N. on Her Armistice Complaints

AMMAN, Jordan, June 11 (P)—The Jordanian Government has warned the United Nations that "grave consequences" may follow unless the Palestine Armistice Commission achieves a speedy settlement of the Israeli-Jordan frontier disputes.

In a telegram to United Nations Secretary General Trygve Lie, Premier Abul Huda Pasha yesterday complained of delay in the commission's handling of his country's complaints regarding alleged Israeli military movements in divided Jerusalem.

Jordan has charged that the Israelis have been strengthening their defense arrangements around Hebrew University and Hadassah Hospital on the Holy City's Mount Scopus. This area has been held by Israeli forces although it is within the Arab lines. Under terms of the armistice agreement, the Israelis have been allowed a small police force there and the Arabs have passed supplies through to the garrison.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

News Agency reports from Amman say Jordan has protested to the U.N. that Israel is digging fortifications near the Arab territory adjoining the demilitarised zone northeast of Jerusalem. The Israeli premier announced at the weekend that this area would become part of the Jewish state. Meanwhile a Reuters correspondent has reported that the Queen of Jordan is anxious that King Talal should abide by the decision of the Jordan regency council that he should undergo treatment at a Swiss hospital for his mental disorder. So far the King has refused to go into the clinic saying it is a plot to keep him from the throne. 12-30

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *The London Times*

File No. *175/11/89*

Published at

Date *20/6/49*

ARAB WORKERS FIRED ON

**ALLEGATIONS OF ISRAELI
COERCION**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JUNE 8

Arab Legion headquarters states that during the past three days Israeli rifle fire from beyond the borders was concentrated on Arabs harvesting on their lands in the Ramallah and Kalkilah districts bordering Israel. One Arab had been killed and one woman seriously wounded. The spokesman commented: "It is believed that the shooting was intended as pressure on Jordan to accept the halving of 'no-man's land' which was proposed by the Israeli members of the mixed armistice committee to the Jordanian members."

A Government spokesman declared: "The Israeli claim, made in the name of the Israel Foreign Ministry, that there have been negotiations between Jordan and Israel on the halving of 'no-man's land' in Jerusalem, or other places, or on amendments to the present borders delineated in accordance with the armistice agreement, as the Prime Minister has said on many previous occasions, has no foundation. . . . This denial of the Israeli claim should be considered a fact and final."

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

No. of Paper *175/11/29* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at *12-30 PM* Date *6/1/52*

Reuters correspondent in Jerusalem has reported that sporadic fighting has broken out along the border of Israel and Jordan and has been going on for several hours this morning. Rail traffic between Haifa and Tel Aviv has been halted.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *The London Times*

File No. *175/11/29*

Published at

Date

**ISRAEL-JORDAN BORDER
INCIDENT**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT
TEL AVIV, JUNE 4

A minor incident, which may, however, have more serious implications, is reported here from the central part of the Israel-Jordan border. This afternoon a party of Israelis who, accompanied by two United Nations officers, had set out to harvest certain lands in the Qualqilya area, were fired on from across the border and one Israeli was killed. The rest of the party had not been permitted to recover the body up to sunset, when continuous firing from the Jordan side was said still to be in progress. The lands to which the Israeli party had been making its way were confirmed as Israeli territory by a decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission on March 31.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

Jordan Rejects Pact With Israel For Redrawing of Border Lines

By DANA ADAMS SCHMIDT

Special to The New York Times

TEL AVIV, Israel, June 3—An agreement redrawing the line of demarcation between Israel and Jordan was reached several weeks ago by Israeli and Jordanian members of the mixed armistice commission but was rejected by the Jordanian Government, it was authoritatively learned today.

Abdul Huda Pasha, Jordanian Premier, several days ago issued a statement denying rumors that his Government had entertained any plan to hand over Jordanian territory to Israel. This was accurate as far as it went but it evaded the fact that the proposed agreement involved extensive exchanges of territory.

The Israeli Government had empowered its delegation on the mixed armistice commission to reach a binding agreement. The Jordanian delegation, however, had to refer the agreement to its Government, within which elements opposing any step toward peace with Israel saw to its rejection. The chief of the Jordanian delegation, Armed Bey Tukhan, thereupon resigned.

One of the main objects of the negotiations, which began early this year, was to reunite about a dozen Arab villages with their land or their wells from which they had been separated by a hasty drawing of the line of demarcation at the armistice conference at Rhodes in 1948.

In this manner, between 4,000 and 5,000 Arabs could be resettled in their villages. About half of these would have re-entered villages on the Israeli side of the line. The Israeli Government would have undertaken not to move or molest these Arabs.

The most dramatic case of this kind is that of the village of Qalqilya, near Tulkarm, which once had 1,200 acres of citrus groves. After the drawing of the demarcation line, the village left in Jordanian territory retained only one and a half acres of groves. Consequently, Qalqilya has been a constant source of friction.

Earlier attempts to redraw the demarcation line were interrupted four months ago when Arabs fired on a party of Israelis who had



The New York Times June 3, 1952

Jordan rejected a pact with Israel to exchange territory at Qalqilya (1), near Sdom (2) and in the area of Latrun (3).

begun to collect cabbages from a section of land that, according to the Israelis, had been illegally cultivated by Arabs from across the line.

In the case of Qalqilya, where the land is especially valuable, Israel would have received compensation for the acreage returned by somewhat larger areas around Beit Jubrin or in the vicinity of Sdom where the potash company needs more space. But in most other cases the exchange would have been on an acre-for-acre basis.

Most important for Israel would have been the reopening of the road via Latrun between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, thereby cutting fifteen miles from the present road distance between the two cities. The reopening would be in accordance with a provision of the armistice, which also called for the reopening of the road from the Israeli part of Jerusalem to Mount Scopus and to Bethlehem.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

5 JUN 1952

CANBERRA

P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION
CAIRO.

28th. May, 1952.

In reply quote No. S.1/5/9.

Memo.No. 411/52

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Jordan and Israel

Reports have appeared recently in the Amman Press suggesting that the Prime Minister of Jordan (Abul Hoda Pasha) contemplates negotiating a separate peace with Israel.

On the 20th. May, Abul Hoda Pasha repudiated these suggestions in an official statement. He said that the Jordanian Government was in full agreement with all other Arab States in its attitude to Israel, and that the question of Palestine could be dealt with only on the basis of a unified Arab policy.

The Premier's statement concluded with the following remarks: "I announce now that the Jordan Government will not give up one inch of the territory which is now under the authority of the Government. From our point of view the borders which have been demarcated by the truce agreements with Israel are not the final borders, and the Jordan Kingdom will not regard itself as committed to these frontiers when the final solution to the Palestine problem is discussed."

H.S. Barnett

Secretary

P.O. Box 273

S.1/5/9.

Australian Legation, Cairo.

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HR
Secretary

In reply quote No.

Memo. No. 548/52



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

3 JUN 1952

CANBERRA.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.


19th May, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Subject: The Jerusalem frontier.

During the week May 5th/11th, 1952,
four Arab infiltrators were killed, sixteen
wounded and twenty-eight captured in skirmishes
on the Jerusalem frontier.

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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

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C-S


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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No. 356/52

1st April, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

Subject: Alleged Israeli killings, atrocities, etcetera, against
Arabs on the Transjordan frontier.

We, in Israel, live under a constant "barrage" of highly-coloured Government of Israel reports of Arab infiltration on the frontiers: of murders, rape and looting by those persons, and of various other forms of atrocities perpetrated by Arabs as part of a plan to keep Jews living in the border areas in a constant state of fear, and it lightens the monotony a little occasionally to hear the other side of the story - what the Arabs have to say about the Israelis.

2. I am told that, about mid-March, the Jordan Foreign Ministry submitted a Memorandum to the Heads of the British, U.S.A. and French Missions in Amman in which it was stated that, in the course of incursions into Jordan territory over the past three years, Israeli regulars and irregulars have killed 112 Arabs, approximately half of whom were women and children, wounded 95 and kidnapped 73 persons. In addition, the Israel Army have deported 15,000 Arabs across the border - sometimes, according to report, in circumstances of "shocking brutality and complete disregard for life and/or human suffering". Jordan alleges that Israel has perpetrated 634 violations of the Armistice Agreement. The report contains 14 plates depicting acts of killing, mutilation of bodies, demolition of houses and a map of the frontier showing the areas most affected.

CS
for info to UN
PA

(O. C. W. Fuhrman)
Australian Minister.

OCWF/CO

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No. 175/11/29

Published at

Date

ISRAELI TALKS WITH JORDAN FAIL

TEL AVIV DISAPPOINTED

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

TEL AVIV, JUNE 2

It now seems clear that the failure of the talks between Israel and Jordan on frontier rectification, to which Tewfik Pasha Abulhuda, the Jordanian Prime Minister, referred on Saturday, means an indefinite postponement of the opportunity of a far-reaching improvement in relations between Israel and Jordan, and perhaps between Israel and others of her neighbours.

Israel believes that she made important concessions in order to secure agreement with Amman, the effect of which might have persuaded Syria to enter negotiations with Israel in the mutual frontier interests of both countries. Israel was also anxious to demonstrate the advantage of direct talks over third-party mediation, and towards this end appears to have been conciliatory and constructive in her proposals to Jordan.

The talks were of an informal character, and complete agreement had been reached between the delegates of both countries on territorial exchanges, which were roughly on a dunam for dunam basis. The recommendations would have reunited many Arab villages—notably Kalkilya and Beit Jibrin—with their lands and water and would have restored the former source of water of the Israel potash works at Sdom, at the southern end of the Dead Sea.

THE LATRUN ENCLAVE

The plan informally agreed upon also provided a solution of the problem of the Latrun enclave. Here again the intention seems to have been to reunite villages and lands. As the road from the rest of the coast to Jerusalem is now controlled by Israel, the plan not unnaturally involved the handing over of a section of the main road in the Latrun enclave to Israel, together with the territory occupied by the famous Trappist monastery at Latrun. The French Government is understood to have intervened against the proposal to transfer the monastery area to the sovereignty of Israel, but it is stated here that the monastery authorities subsequently withdrew their objections.

Israeli sources claim that the Arab villages involved in the proposed exchanges welcomed the plan, even where it meant a transfer to Israel, in which cases a guarantee was offered against expulsion or other interference by the Israel Government. Israel would naturally have profited considerably by obtaining the use of the Latrun section of the main road from Jerusalem to the coast and by the restoration of its source of water to the potash works at Sdom; but the Arabs, too, would have benefited immeasurably by the reunion of villages and land separated as a result of the Rhodes decision on the frontier, and both sides would have gained from the removal of serious causes of frontier incidents.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *The Jordanian*

File No. *175/11/29*

Published at

Date *2/6/29*

**NO JORDAN TERRITORY
FOR ISRAEL**

TEWFIK PASHA'S POLICY

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JUNE 1

Commenting on reports in Jordan that the armistice agreement with Israel may soon end, and on rumours spread by some Syrian newspapers that the Jordan Government will give up territory to Israel, Tewfik Pasha Abulhuda, the Prime Minister, states that the Government does not intend to give away to Israel any part of the Jordan Kingdom, however small. "It is my personal policy, and the Jordan Government policy generally," he said, "not to come to an agreement with Israel stipulating any settlement that does not meet with the approval of the other Arab States."

"With regard to the termination of the armistice agreement with Israel, in spite of the disadvantages of the agreement it is indefinite and similar to other Israel agreements with Syria, Egypt, and Lebanon, and there is no fear of any violation or change of the present state." Referring to King Talal, the Prime Minister said that his presence abroad had no other meaning except the necessity for his convalescence.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

16 APR 1952

CANBERRA.

In reply quote No.

Memo. No. 344/52

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

31st March, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Subject: Border incidents on the
Jerusalem front.

During the week ending March 31st,
1952, two Arab infiltrators were killed,
three wounded and fifty-two captured on the
Jerusalem front.

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No.

Published at

Date

Relations with the Arab States

Jordan

The Israeli-Jordanian Mixed Armistice Commission discussed on 2nd April the mutual transfer of "certain files dating from the mandatory regime" which would be useful to the respective Ministries of the two countries (Israel in Hebrew 05.00, 2.4.52). At the same time the question of extending the agreement on frontier relations, which had expired two days before, was discussed; the Israeli representatives informed their Jordanian colleagues that they considered that, whereas Israel had "strictly and sincerely observed" the agreement, a "number of serious incidents" showed that Jordan was not standing by it; they then said that Jordan would have to show conclusively that she had taken practical measures to stop infiltration and to improve the border situation, otherwise Israel would have to regard the agreement as having no validity (ibid). Thereafter it was agreed to extend the period of the agreement to 15th April. (Israel in Hebrew 21.00, 2.4.52).

On 31st March, five infiltrators, who had been armed at the time of their arrest, were sentenced to various terms of imprisonment. (Israel in Hebrew 16.15, 31.3.52)

On 1st April a Jordan representative requested that Arabs living in Zeita, in the Tulkarm district, be allowed to harvest such of their crops as lay along the border line; the Israeli representatives claimed that the crops actually were in "no man's land" and replied that they would only permit the Arabs to harvest them on the condition that one third of the yield was handed over to Israel, a condition which the Jordanian representative rejected. (Arab News Agency 1.4.52)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper.....

File No.

Published at.....

Date.....

JERUSALEM, March 1 (P)—
Two Israeli watchmen guarding a
water pipeline southwest of Jerusa-
lem near the Jordan frontier were
shot dead early today.

The guards were patrolling the
waterworks near Ain Karem, birth-
place of John the Baptist, when
attacked by rifles and sten guns.
Israeli police said they believed
marauders from Jordan did the
killing. It was the first serious bor-
der incident in the Jerusalem area
in several weeks.



GOVERNMENT OF
AUSTRALIA
16 FEB 1952
175/11/29

In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo. No. 148/52.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV. Israel.

4th February, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Jordan clashes.

Border incidents during the past
week between Israel and Transjordan are
reported in the attached.

*copy sent to
on*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

PA

C.S.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Sunday, February 3d, 1952.

Israel Officer Fired At By Arab Legion; Meetings Cancelled

TEL AVIV, Saturday. — The Israel Army has cancelled all meetings between its officers and Arab Legion local commanders scheduled to take place tomorrow, it was announced here tonight.

This step was taken after an Israel officer was fired on today from Arab Legion positions in the Latrun Area while on his way to a meeting arranged under the new agreement between Jordan and Israel for "sincere cooperation to curb infiltration and border incidents." The Israel statement charged that "the bad faith of the Arab Legion caused a breakdown of the agreement after being in operation for only one day."

Arrangement Made

The arrangements for border meetings had been agreed to on behalf of the Jordan Government at a formal Mixed Armistice Commission meeting last Thursday (as reported). The agreement had originally been scheduled to come into force the day before, but had been postponed when at the last moment it was learned that the Legion local commanders had not received any instructions.

An apology was received on behalf of the Commander of the Legion, Glubb Pasha, and the senior Jordan delegate to the MAC gave an assurance that "all necessary orders had been issued and would be received by all concerned in good time." Nevertheless, the next day (Friday) the Israel representative on his way to a pre-

viously-arranged meeting at Latrun was fired on from Legion positions at some 400 metres range. Through the medium of the U.N. officers on the MAC, the Legion then gave a "firm guarantee" that the Israel representative could proceed to the meeting on the agreed route "in absolute safety," and promised an enquiry into the incident. At 11 o'clock yesterday morning, whilst passing the pumping station on the main Kubed-Latrun Road, heavy machine gun fire was again directed at the officer from the Legion positions, and he extricated himself with some difficulty.

Cancel Meetings

As a result, Sgan Aloff Shaul Ramati informed Col. Bennet de Ridder, chairman of the Israel-Jordan MAC, that orders had been issued by the GHQ of the Israel Defence Forces cancelling all the meetings scheduled to take place along the line on February 3.

"A-Diffa," the Old City daily, charged yesterday that an exchange of fire between Arab Legionnaires and National Guards and Israel soldiers which lasted several hours took place at Wadi Fukin, near Bethlehem, on Thursday morning. A Mixed Armistice Commission team visited the spot on Friday, the paper said.

The paper further claims that another exchange of fire occurred on Thursday night near Jenin when Israel soldiers forced 12 Arabs across the lines into Jordan. On the same night, an Israel plane flew over Ramallah, the paper says.

After spending over a year in Jordan prisons, Ya'acov Berman, 19, of Bnei Brak, was returned to Israel at Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem on Friday. He left immediately to join his family, ITSM reports.

Kibbutz Member Killed by Syrians On Lake Huleh

Zvi Gruenbaum, 29, of Kibbutz Hulata, died in the Schweitzer Hospital in Tiberias yesterday evening after being wounded by fire from the Syrian side of Lake Huleh in the afternoon. He was searching for three members of the settlement who failed to return from fishing on Friday. The Post correspondent in Tiberias reports.

An announcement by a UN observer last night indicates that the three fishermen—Shmuel Levin, Rafael Az and Avraham Broslavsky—are in Syrian hands and safe.

An Army communique late last night reports that Gruenbaum and other members of the kibbutz, in the company of a U.N. observer, had set off in a launch yesterday morning to continue search for the missing men, after searches on Friday had uncovered the men's empty boat near the eastern shore.

Rowboat Fired At

Some distance from the shore the U.N. observer and Gruenbaum switched to a small rowboat, apparently to carry the search onto the shore. As the rowboat approached the shore, it became the target of rifle fire, according to the Army communique. Though the rowboat returned to the larger boat, the firing continued and was joined by fire from automatic weapons. Gruenbaum was hit. The observer was unhurt.

Gruenbaum leaves a wife and three children.

A sharp protest has been lodged with the Israel-Syrian MAC.

2 Gadna Boys Due Back Next Week

The two Gadna boys who lost their way on a hike last week and are now in the hands of the Arab Legion in Ramallah, may be returned at the beginning of next week. This was stated by the Israel delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission after they had raised the question at a meeting of the M.A.C. yesterday.

Most of the six hours of formal and informal sessions of the Israel-Jordan MAC at Mandelbaum Gate yesterday were taken up with the interrogation of three Arabs charged with

Twelve infiltrators were killed, two wounded, and 46 arrested between January 16 and January 29. It was officially announced in Tel Aviv yesterday.

having raped, strangled and mutilated an 18-year old Israeli girl early in December south of Malha, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. An Israeli communique stated that:

The Israel Delegation disclosed fool-proof evidence as to their guilt and expressed the hope that the Jordan authorities would now take the necessary steps against them.

New measures to combat infiltration were discussed at the meeting, which afterwards agreed to issue the following joint statement:

Local commanders and Police representatives of both sides are to meet daily all along the Armistice line to implement the agreement on extra-ordinary measures to be taken to curb infiltration and to bring about a general improvement of border relations. Special orders have been issued to troops, police and local authorities, and measures have been taken to avoid delays and red tape with regard to the return of any property, which might be stolen despite the agreement. The MAC delegations will be mobile throughout the test period, and intend to take part in the meetings of the local commanders in each of the various sectors.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Sunday, February 3rd, 1952.

Jordan Found Guilty Of 59 Armistice Violations

Jordan was found guilty of "acts inconsistent with and in violation of the Armistice Agreement" in 59 out of 78 complaints dealt with at a formal meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission in Jerusalem yesterday. Israel was found guilty of one violation: 12 complaints were either withdrawn or, by agreement, deemed settled and six others were referred back for further sub-committee action.

The most serious incident in which Jordan was found to have violated the Armistice Agreement, according to an Israeli press release, was the ambush-murder on the Ein Hussub-Sdom road, on December 26 in which two Israeli soldiers were killed and a third wounded by an armed group from Jordan. Calling on Jordan authorities to prevent a recurrence of this flagrant violation, the MAC noted that this was the third case of its kind at the same spot within the past six months.

Result of Error

Israel's violation, the MAC decided, occurred on December 12 in the Jalbun area when an Israel patrol opened fire on a group of Arabs who were some 50 metres on their side of the border. The incident was the result of an error as to the exact location of the undemarcated armistice line, according to the Israeli communiqué.

The meeting was adjourned as Israel's complaint on the rape-murder of an 18-year-old girl south of Mafha on December 4 was about to be discussed. The Israel delegation has asked that Mohammed Mansi, Said Zaiem and Jamal Mukhrabi, of Bet Jala, whom they accuse of the murder, be brought to Mandelbaum Gate for examination by a MAC Inquiry Committee. The appearance for cross-examination of the Bet Jala cafe-keeper where the three had met before and after infiltrating into Israel, was also asked.

Experimental Plan

Preceding the formal meeting, the senior delegates informally discussed extraordinary measures to be taken against infiltration. An experimental plan recommended by the Israel delegate will be initiated during the first half of February after confirmation by Israel and Jordan General Headquarters.

Sgan Aloof Sha'ul Ramati and Ahmed Bey Toukan, the senior MAC delegates, will meet near Battir on Sunday to investigate last Sunday's incident in which three Arabs were killed while apparently tampering with railway tracks in the area.

A public trial of six Egyptian infiltrators captured last September will take place on Sunday in the District Military Court in Beersheba, it was announced yesterday in Tel Aviv. The infiltrators are charged with bearing and shooting firearms.

P/17/9.
Memo. No. 148/52.


Israel.
4th February, 1952.

MEMORANDUM For:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Jordan clashes.

Border incidents during the past
week between Israel and Transjordan are
reported in the attached.


G.C.W. Fehrmann,
Australian Minister.

In reply quote No. P/2/1.
Memo. No. 102/52.



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

7 FEB 1952

CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.

TEL AVIV. Israel.

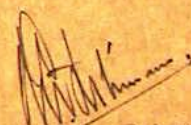
24th January 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Arab infiltration into Israel; frontier
clashes etcetera.

1. Although, for some little time, I have not reported on the situation in back-areas abutting Israel's frontier with Transjordan, it should not be accepted that there has been any marked change for the better. Indeed, the situation has worsened - if anything, and clashes between Israel police and Israel Army patrols and Arab infiltrators are a daily occurrence, as are also reports of penetration into Jordan territory by Israeli regular and irregular troops.
2. On January 23rd 1952, six members of a numerically large band of Arab infiltrators were killed in a gun battle with a police patrol in the Sharon area - within a few miles of Tel Aviv where Israel territory is but a coastal strip a few kilometres wide. The marauders had apparently opened fire when challenged by the patrol. Sacks of oranges were found beside the bodies of the dead Arabs, whose gang is believed to be responsible for a number of recent thefts in the area.
3. Meanwhile, the killing of five marauders by Israel patrols on January 18th in the Israel "Triangle" and near Jerusalem was confirmed in a press release issued by the Army authorities a day or so ago.
4. "Falastin", an Arab newspaper published in the Old City of Jerusalem, reports today an exchange of automatic fire between Israel soldiers and Jordan guards near Mar Elias in the Bethlehem area. The exchange followed the explosion of three Israel mines which rocked the town of Bethlehem. Yesterday's "Falastin" reported another clash near Latrun lasting for a half hour.
5. Arab infiltrators, who raided a Beduin camp near the border on January 19th, were tracked to the Israel/Jordan frontier by police, according to a report from Beersheba. The marauders escaped with 23 goats and three cows. The same night, a cow was stolen from a settlement in the Negev.
6. According to the Tel Aviv correspondent of the "New York Times" "battles between the Israel Army and infiltrators cost 133 Arab marauders and 12 Israelis their lives during the last three months of 1951". It was revealed that 579 Arabs were arrested. The Israel Army authorities estimate the loss due to marauding by Arabs at a total of \$750,000 during 1951.


O. S. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/2502
29 January 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Dual distribution

LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1952 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF ISRAEL
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Paris, 29 January 1952

I have the honour to request that the following communication relating to the Armistice Agreements between Israel and Arab States be brought to the attention of the Security Council.

1. On 23 January 1952 the Prime Minister of Jordan addressed a letter to the Secretary-General (S/2486) referring to alleged violations of the Armistice Agreements by a body of people described by him as "the Jews". The Jordan Prime Minister went on to state that "the Mixed Armistice Commission is now seized of a number of complaints on which it will have to pronounce," thus making clear that the Jordan allegations had not been substantiated by the Armistice Commission.

On 24 January 1952 the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission held a meeting in Jerusalem to consider a series of incidents which had occurred on the Israel-Jordan armistice frontier. The Commission determined that Jordan had been responsible for 59 violations of the Armistice Agreement and Israel for one such violation. Twelve complaints were removed from the agenda and six were held over for further study. Discussions were held on the question of Arab infiltrations across the armistice line, which had been the cause of many serious incidents involving loss of life.

The Government of Israel is convinced that proper observance by troops and civilians in Jordan of Article IV (3) of the Armistice Agreement would have prevented these casualties and can obviate them in the future.

The results of the Mixed Armistice Commission's deliberations reveal the distorted and inaccurate character of the communication addressed by the Jordan Prime Minister to the Secretary-General in Document (S/2486).

P/52-561

/2. In
S/2502

2. In an address to the Ad Hoc Political Committee of the General Assembly on 22 January 1952 the representative of Syria, Mr. Ahmed Shukairy, speaking for his Government, threatened the destruction of Israel by the use of force. He "warned" Israel of a "storm" which would "tear the structure of Israel down to the Foundation," and went on to support the conception that armed Arab refugees should "take the law into their own hands" and enter Israel to "take their homes by their own efforts." In conclusion Mr. Shukairy looked forward to the destruction of the State of Israel and its elimination from the United Nations.

The Government of Israel now submits a complaint to the Security Council against the Government of Syria in respect of this utterance by the Syrian representative. It is clear that the Syrian speech constitutes a violation of Article 2(4) of the Charter which reads in part:

"All members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State ..."

The speech of Mr. Shukairy also threatens a violation by Syria of Article III (3) of the Israel-Syrian Armistice Agreement which reads:

"No warlike act or acts of hostility shall be conducted from territory controlled by one of the Parties to this Agreement against the other Party or against civilians in territory under control of that Party."

It is clear from Article I of the aforesaid agreement that the threat of force is no less a violation of the armistice than the use of force. Moreover, the Syrian statement reveals a flagrant intention to disregard Article IV (3) of the Armistice Agreement which reads:

"Rules and regulations of the armed forces of the Parties, which prohibit civilians from crossing the fighting lines or entering the area between the lines, shall remain in effect after the signing of this Agreement, with application to the Armistice Demarcation Line defined in Article V, subject to the provisions of paragraph 5 of that article."

The Government of Israel does not recall any other instance of a member State of the United Nations threatening, however vainly, to extinguish the identity and political independence of another State. Such statements of open hostility are bound to increase my Government's vigilance and defensive alertness. Israel in exercise of its rights of self-defence and in conformity with Article IV (3) of the Armistice Agreement will resist any unauthorised

/passage

, passage across the armistice lines, whether of military forces, para-military forces or groups of civilians.

The Government of Israel reserves its right, under Article 35 of the Charter, to request meetings of the Security Council to consider and pass judgment on statements containing a threat of force against Israel. The statement made by the Syrian representative on 22 January 1952 will also be the subject of a formal complaint by my Government to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

(signed) Abba Eban
Permanent Representative of
Israel to the United Nations

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The London Times

File No.

175/11/29

Published at

Date

25/1/52

JORDAN PROTESTS TO U.N.

"JEWISH AGGRESSION"

FROM OUR UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENT

PARIS, JAN. 24

The Prime Minister of Jordan has addressed a protest to the United Nations against Jewish "acts of aggression," which, he maintains, have recently increased in number, and requests that they be brought to the notice of the Security Council.

The Prime Minister refers especially to a Jewish attack on January 6 in which six citizens of Jordan were killed and a number of houses wrecked by dynamite. These attacks, he asserts, are a violation of the armistice agreement between Jordan and Israel, but unfortunately the Security Council had taken no measures to prevent them. They were being perpetrated by regular troops and the Government of Jordan might now find it difficult to prevent retaliation which would have its "serious consequences" in the whole of the Middle East.

In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 40/52.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV Israel.
10th January 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: A serious series of border incidents near Qalqilia - a town in Arab territory fifteen miles north-east of Tel-Aviv: Map reference - 32°10'N x 34°57'E.

**ARAB VERSION OF NEW
BORDER INCIDENT**

**REPORTED MOVEMENT OF
ISRAELI TROOPS**

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

AMMAN, JAN. 2

A dispute between Jordan and Israel over an intensively cultivated Jordanian area of fewer than 100 acres, west of Qalqilia town, in what was formerly central Palestine, might have developed into a serious armed clash had it not been for the intervention of General Riley, chief of staff of the United Nations truce supervision organization, who is now in Paris.

Arab Legion sources state that General Riley telegraphed the Israeli authorities urging them to refrain at all costs from violating the armistice agreement. According to these sources, the incident was preceded by the scattering of leaflets in Qalqilia on two occasions. The first batch, on November 30, threatened revenge if the inhabitants did not cease infiltrating into Israel and did not prevent other Arabs from doing so through Qalqilia town: the second batch, on December 12, incited the inhabitants to resist the work of a demarcation party of Jordanians and Israelis, which was described as an imperialistic plot. The leaflets in the second instance were signed by a "liberation committee." The phrasing and signature suggest Communist origin, the Arab Legion sources stated. They said it was possible that both pamphlets were distributed by the same hand.

MARKING ARMISTICE LINE

During the second week in December a mixed team of Jordanians and Israelis was engaged in marking the armistice line on the ground in the Qalqilia area, but suspended work on December 12 because of disagreement on the exact line west of the town. Demarcation was to be resumed the next day, but the Jordanian representatives did not appear, and on the morning of December 14 about 60 Israeli soldiers "invaded" the Arab area. The Arab Legion stood to, but did not open fire. Additional Israeli troops arrived, and by the evening they had reached battalion strength. They took up positions round the disputed area. Meanwhile, the Arab Legion reinforced its effectives in the region.

Three meetings of the mixed armistice commission were held later to discuss the dispute, and on the last occasion, on December 18, according to the Arab Legion sources, Lieutenant-Colonel Ramati, the Israeli representative, invited the senior Jordanian member, Ahmed Bey Toukan, to leave the conference room for a private discussion. When they returned to the meeting the matter was put to the vote: Colonel Ramati and his colleagues withdrew.

According to the Arab Legion sources, Colonel Ramati was also present at Qalqilia throughout the day on December 14 and was apparently in charge of the operation. It was claimed by the Arab Legion that all Israeli families in the adjoining settlements had been evacuated a few days before.

1. The attached excerpt from the London "Times" of January 3rd 1952, saves me the preparation of a long report on the incident referred to therein.

2. I have had this Qalqilia incident under notice for some time, but have refrained from reporting on it until I could obtain some corroboration of what I had heard of week to week developments. The appearance in the London "Times" of the despatch from its Amman correspondent, is, in fact, a concise statement of what actually has occurred. I have checked the various incidents with the British and American Service Attachés, who have been watching this incident with particular care, and last night, January 9th 1952, went through the attached "Times" report with Colonel Samuel C. Gurney Jr. (American), and Colonel Pender-Cudlip (British), both of whom stated that, as a result of their enquiries and of information which has come to their knowledge, the facts are as reported in the "Times". They are, of course, denied by the Israel Army authorities.

copy sent
on
PA
O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 41/52.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.

10th January 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel troops and irregulars adopt the rôle
of organised infiltrators.

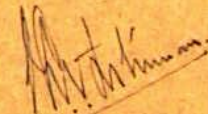
It seems that, for the time being at all events, Israel Army troops and Israel irregulars are deliberately violating the Transjordan frontier and carrying out punitive raids deep into Jordan territory. There has been a number of such complaints in recent weeks. The latest report of an incident of this nature is that, on January 9th, Israel Army troops penetrated the Jordan frontier three kilometres to the south-west of Bethlehem, blew up two houses and fired on a third in the course of which six Arabs, including two women and two children, were killed. Leaflets said to have been distributed by the Israelis stated that Israel forces would retaliate against Arab infiltration by incursions into Arab territory.

2. The Mixed Armistice Commission, at a session on January 7th 1952, established "beyond reasonable doubt" that an organised force of Israeli irregulars illegally crossed the Jordan frontier in the Beit Jala area on the night of January 6th/7th, attacked several Arab houses and killed seven Arabs and wounded three others. It appears that this particular incident was related to and was, in fact, admitted retaliation for the rape, murder and mutilation of an eighteen year old Jewish girl by persons living in the Beit Jala area - persons (Arabs) whose names had been mentioned in evidence before the Mixed Armistice Commission when the murder of this girl by Arab infiltrators was enquired into about a month or so ago.

3. The Commission, at its session on January 7th, also heard twelve complaints by Transjordan against Israel - all acts of infiltration or border clashes with the Arab Legion.

4. A report from Amman today, January 10th 1952, is to the effect that, for the third successive night, Israel planes have flown over Nablus at a great height.

5. A report from Cairo, also under today's date-line, states that an armoured Israel column crossed the demarcation line in the Gaza area on January 7th, and, using gun-fire, attacked peasants. Seven persons were reported killed, and 8 wounded in this foray into Egyptian territory. Egypt has lodged a strong complaint with the Mixed Armistice Commission.


O.E.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

P/17/9.
Memo. No. 41/52.

Israel.
10th January 1952.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel troops and irregulars adopt the rôle
of organised infiltrators.


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G.C. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/2486

23 January 1952

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Dual Distribution

CABLEGRAM DATED 22 JANUARY 1952 FROM THE PRIME MINISTER AND
MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM
OF JORDAN ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

AMMAN, 22 January 1952

I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BRING TO YOUR NOTICE THE FOLLOWING:

JEWISH ACTS OF AGGRESSION AGAINST LIFE AND PROPERTY INSIDE JORDAN TERRITORY HAVE RECENTLY INCREASED IN NUMBER. THE AGGRESSIONS CONSTITUTE A VIOLATION OF ARTICLE THREE PARAGRAPHS TWO AND THREE OF THE GENERAL ARMISTICE AGREEMENT CONCLUDED BETWEEN JORDAN AND ISRAEL BESIDES CONSTITUTING A THREAT TO PEACE AND SECURITY IN THAT PART OF THE WORLD. THE JORDAN GOVERNMENT (GARBLED) WITH THE MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION WHICH IN TURN DECIDED THAT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THESE VIOLATIONS LAY WITH THE ISRAELI SIDE. DESPITE THESE DECISIONS JEWISH AGGRESSION HAS PERSISTED AND THERE ARE PENDING BEFORE THE MAC A NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS FOR DECISION. THE JORDAN GOVERNMENT, HOWEVER, POSSESSES SUFFICIENT EVIDENCE TO SUBSTANTIATE ITS COMPLAINTS. IT IS NATURAL THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS BEEN NOTIFIED OF THE VARIOUS MAC DECISIONS WHICH ADJUDGE THE JEWS FOR THE VIOLATIONS AND THE DISTURBANCE OF THE PEACE. UNFORTUNATELY THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS NOT TO THIS DAY TAKEN ANY MEASURES THAT WOULD LEAD TO STOPPING SUCH AGGRESSIONS.

IN THE CIRCUMSTANCES THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN WISHES ESPECIALLY TO CALL ATTENTION TO THE JEWISH ATTACK ON JANUARY SIX, 1952, WHICH COINCIDED ON CHRISTMAS EVE OF THE EASTERN CHURCHES, CAUSING THE DEATH OF SIX JORDANIAN CITIZENS, INCLUDING FOUR WOMEN AND CHILDREN AS WELL AS APPRECIABLE LOSS TO PROPERTY BY THE DYNAMITING OF HOUSES.

THE JORDAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HAS HITHERTO PRESERVED ITS CALM AND WISDOM VIS A VIS THESE AGGRESSIONS IN ADDITION TO RESPECTING THE TERMS OF THE ARMISTICE AGREEMENT WHICH WAS EFFECTED IN RESPONSE TO A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION, WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT AFTER TODAY TO PREVENT THE REACTION TO THE JEWISH PROVOCATION WHICH MIGHT MANIFEST ITSELF IN RETALIATION. THIS IS ESPECIALLY POSSIBLE IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT ALL THE JEWISH ATTACKS ARE BEING PERPETRATED BY REGULAR TROOPS. SUCH REACTION WILL HAVE ITS SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES BY DISTURBING THE PEACE IN THE WHOLE OF THE MIDDLE EAST, A MATTER WHICH THE UNITED NATIONS AND SECURITY COUNCIL ARE INTERESTED TO PRESERVE.

/THE GOVERNMENT
S/2486

D/52-415

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN HAS THE HONOUR, THEREFORE, TO BRING THIS POSSIBILITY TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION AND REQUEST THAT YOU KINDLY CONVEY THE CONTENTS OF THE PRESENT NOTE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND OTHER RELATED BODIES OF THE UNITED NATIONS WITH THE PURPOSE OF TAKING THE MEASURES AND STEPS NECESSARY TO STOP FURTHER JEWISH AGGRESSIONS.

(Signed) TAWFIC ABU EL HUDA
Prime Minister and
Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In reply quote No. S.1/5/9.

Memo.No. 29/52



P.O. Box 273

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION
CAIRO.

11th. January, 1952.

MEMORANDUM for -

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Israel-Arab Countries

There were grounds for hoping in December last that relations between Israel and Arab neighbors, or ~~the~~ at least between Israel and Jordan, had taken a turn for the better. Agreement was reached between Israel and Jordan that 2,000 Christians living in the former would be permitted to cross the territory of the latter in order to attend services on Christmas Day. This was the largest number permitted to cross the border into Jordan, since the Israel-Arab war.

Since that date however various unfortunate incidents have been reported. Al Ahram on the 28th. December reported that on the 26th December a Jewish force had seized 1,000 head of sheep in the Kasslima Zone of the Gaza strip. On the 8th. January Al Ahram reported further that a Jewish force had crossed the Armistice line at Burig and fired at the population killing seven Arabs and wounding eight and burning their tents and grain. This report stated that the Jews had left behind them pamphlets threatening the Arabs with death if they should try to cross the Armistice line. The Egyptian Delegation to the Mixed Armistice Committee is stated to have presented a protest.

Such reports, having appeared in the Egyptian press, might have been treated with reserve. However it was officially reported from Amman on the 7th. January that six Arabs including two women and two children had been killed on the previous evening when Israeli patrols had infiltrated over a mile into Jordan. The episode was stated to have taken place North West of Bethlehem. Leaflets left at the site of the incident are said to have announced that the Israeli Forces intended to retaliate for Arab infiltration by infiltrating into Jordan.

H.S. Barnett

Charge d'Affaires a.i.

copy on 175/11/20

in PA

C.S

In reply quote No. P/17/3.
Memo. No. 1345/51.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

10 JAN 1952
175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.

14th December 1951.

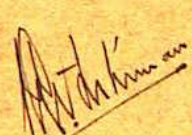
MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Subject: The likelihood of new roads being opened
between the twin cities of Jerusalem
(Israel) and the Old City (Transjordan).

Some discussion is taking place by the Israel/
Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission concerning the opening
of two additional roads between Jerusalem, Israel, and the
Old City of Jerusalem in Transjordan. The Arabs, apparently,
want to open Suleiman Road between Damascus Gate and the
New Gate to facilitate entrance to the Old City - particularly
to the Christian quarter, while it is understood that
Israel wishes to open the traditional road to Mt. Zion
leading from Jaffa Gate along the Old City Walls.

2. The Mixed Armistice Commission met on Sunday,
December 9th 1951, and inspected both roads with a view to
drawing up some agreement which would be acceptable to
both Israel and to Jordan, and it seems as if approval
might be given by both Governments concerned. The roads
referred to are in the Jerusalem no-mans-land.

copy 19/12/51
PP

O.C.W. Fahrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

The Canberra Times

File No.

175/11/29

Published at

Canberra

Date

21/11/52

Israeli-Arab Clash

AMMAN, Tuesday.

Six Arabs, including two women and two children, were killed when Israeli patrols infiltrated about two miles inside Jordan on Sunday night, according to an official statement here.

The Israelites were said to have blown up two houses and fired on another.

Two children were injured in the shooting which took place.



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo No. 1291/51.
1311

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

21 DEC 1951

175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.

6th December, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Mount Scopus in the news.

1. The Near East Broadcasting Station at Amman announced, on December 4th 1951, that the *Augusta Victoria Hospital in the demilitarized zone on Mount Scopus will be taken over officially by the Jordan authorities on January 1st 1952. It was said that the Transjordan Ministry of Health had acquired the buildings and equipment from UNWRA by which it was used, during the past year, for housing several hundred tubercular cases. UNWRA announced last month its intention to close down the Hospital.
2. The Israel authorities have reacted sharply to the reported passing of this property into Jordan hands. Their view is that, if the report be true, the acquisition of this Hospital property by Transjordan is "an open violation of the Armistice Agreement under which the Hospital was located in a closed and demilitarized zone."

copy to UN

[Signature]
O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

*The Augusta Victoria buildings, situated between Mount Scopus and the Mount of Olives, have changed hands several times since the Israel/Arab War. They have been successively administered by the United Nations, the International Red Cross, the Lutheran Order and lately UNWRA. O.C.W.F.

In reply quote No. P/2/2.
Memo. No. 1259/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.

28th November 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA A.C.T.

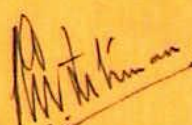
Subject: The "enemy infiltrator" in Israel.

Israeli communities who, by choice, reside or, for other reasons, are obliged to live in frontier zones - areas bordering on Transjordan, Syria and the Lebanon, have suffered much at the hands of infiltrators - especially by those illegally crossing the lines from Jordan. Murder, looting, rape and arson have been but a few of the crimes perpetrated by these marauders and cases of killing and violence have become an everyday occurrence in some districts. In recent months, the situation has worsened seriously. During the first week of November, 176 Jordanians were caught on Israel territory in the Jerusalem zone - apart from other areas where the numbers apprehended totalled some hundreds. The record of throat-cutting, killing and wounding by shooting and stabbing, theft of livestock, household and farm equipment and mischievous and wilful arson - the burning of hay-stacks, crops and buildings, by these infiltrators, is published in Israel from time to time and arouses much anger in this country. The Government of Israel and the Army authorities, for their part, meticulously report each incident to the Mixed Armistice Commission by which they are ponderously considered and upon which weighty judgments are pronounced. More often than not, dozens of such cases are struck off the Agenda of the M.A.C. by mutual consent of both parties to complaints - Israel and/or Jordan: Jordan, on her part, invariably lodges complaints against Israel of infiltration by soldiery and armed Israeli civilians by whom, I am given to understand by the British Minister in Amman, many such raids into Transjordan are carried out - perhaps not so many as Israel has reason to complain of against Jordan, but, in the main, quite a substantial number which, apart from sporadic infiltration into Jordan territory by lone or small groups of individuals, take the form of forays into Transjordan by armed bands of Israeli irregulars and sometimes regular troops. These incursions by armed Israelis are, I think, largely punitive and not for gain. On balance, however, Israel seems to suffer much more than Jordan in loss of life and by theft and arson, and, in my opinion, has good cause for complaint - especially in recent months, during which these predatory raids, accompanied by large-scale killing and wounding, have reached serious and alarming proportions.

2. Recently, on November 26th 1951, in fact, the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, presided over

by Colonel de Ridder, a Belgian, considered the whole problem of infiltration and all aspects of complaints by Israel and Transjordan respectively. de Ridder, in summing up the situation, as Chairman of a quasi-military body, declared that the apprehending of infiltrators is primarily the task of police and not the Army. He made a point, hitherto maintained by Israel in United Nations councils, when he affirmed that there exists no state of war between Israel and Jordan but, when he averred that it is a rule of international behaviour that it is the duty of police to intercept persons who cross frontiers illegally, he rather confounded the Israel point of view that it is an Army job to combat hostile infiltration. Directing his remarks to the Israel delegates on the M.A.C., he stressed that, so far as Israel territory is concerned, it is primarily Israel's job to keep down infiltration by concentrated police effort. He said that he had evidence that the Transjordan authorities were doing their best to stop this nuisance and that, in one day, they had arrested thirty-five persons in the act of attempting to cross the border. All these persons received heavy sentences within twenty-four hours of being apprehended. de Ridder said that, in his opinion a clear and permanent demarcation of the boundary would be one of the best deterrents against infiltration and he urged both Israel and Transjordan to consider marking the frontier line with as little delay as possible.

3. The Chairman of the Israel/Jordan M.A.C. made a few apposite remarks in the course of the meeting referred to above - particularly (a) when he confirmed the Israel view that a state of war does not exist between Israel and Jordan, and (b) when he denied the Israel contention that it was an Army job to fight and combat infiltration: such work, according to the Chairman, is essentially a police operation.

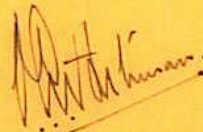

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

ADDENDUM.

A few days after the meeting of the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission referred to above, a Military spokesman in this country said that Colonel de Ridder would be better advised not to make suggestions concerning Israel's internal affairs, but to direct his advice to the neighbouring Arab countries in order to

3.

stop marauders from crossing into Israel territory. The bitterness and suspicion with which the Government of Israel and the Israel Army authorities view the Mixed Armistice Commission is exemplified in the foregoing statement by the Israel military spokesman. This outlook and attitude towards the M.A.C. is not conducive to assisting in establishing better relations between Israel and her Arab neighbours.



O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

30th November 1951.



In reply quote No. P/17/14.
Memo. No. 1207/51.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV. Israel.

4 DEC 1951

16th November 1951.

CANBERRA

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Meeting of the Israel/Jordan Mixed
Armistice Commission.

At its meeting on November 13th the Commission dealt with 33 complaints submitted by both sides. The majority were of a minor nature and settled without difficulty. Three Jordan complaints alleging the expulsion of Arabs from Israel were struck from the agenda on condition that "Israel attempt in so far as possible to give prior notice through the appropriate channels of the transfer of Arabs across the lines." The fourth complaint was retracted by the Jordan delegation when the Israel representatives agreed to give favourable consideration to an application for repatriation to be submitted by an Arab family provided that it could be proved that they were illegally expelled.

2. The Israel delegation stressed the seriousness of infiltration especially in the "Triangle" area and urged the Jordan representatives to press their Government to take more effective steps to prevent incidents which were endangering peace in the area. The M.A.C. Chairman made a personal appeal to this effect.

C. L. ...
copy in PA

[Signature]
O.C. W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CANBERRA.

Name of Paper

File No. 175/11/29

Published at

Date

JORDAN ACTS TO CONTROL BORDER CROSSERS

Jerusalem, World Zionist Organization, in English to the Diaspora, Nov. 1, 1951, 2130 GMT--H

(Text)

"Jerusalem--The Israel-Transjordan Mixed Armistice Commission held two meetings today; the first was informal, the second was a formal one. Israel's complaint against the shooting of two Israeli watchmen in Jerusalem a few days ago by Arab infiltrators from Transjordan-held territory was considered. A resolution passed by the Commission condemned the murder, and reaffirmed the necessity of further steps to prevent the recurrence of such acts, as well as for closer coordination to stop infiltration.

"The head of the Transjordan delegation stressed the willingness of the Transjordan Government to cooperate by all possible means to stop infiltration. The Transjordan Government, he said, was quite aware that the outcome of such acts of lawlessness had harmed Transjordan in the same manner as Israel. He added that the Arab Legion command had requested the Transjordan Government to pass a law to enable action to be taken against Arab marauders who were returned to Transjordan, and to provide for their punishment.

"The Chairman of the Commission, Col. De Ridder, stated that the Transjordan Government had transmitted special instructions to the district and local commanders. Lists will be drawn up of all Arabs in territory under Transjordan control who possessed land across the armistice lines or in its vicinity. Heads of villagers will be shown the armistice line, and will be made responsible for compliance with instructions issued."



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo. No. 1121/51.

DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
7 NOV 1951
175/11/29
CANBERRA

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.

TEL AVIV. Israel.

19th October, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Alleged sabotage in Jordan territory by
Israel soldiers.

It has been reported that an irrigation pump in an orange grove belonging to Arabs at Kalkalia in Transjordan was blown up on October 17th when orange groves in that vicinity were attacked by a group of 300 Israel troops who crossed the line at three points and exchange fire with the Arab Legion and a National Guard patrol. The action is believed locally to be a retaliatory measure for the blowing up of part of the Israel railway line near Teibeh village in the Little Triangle area two days earlier.

2. Protests have been lodged with the Mixed Armistice Commission in connection with the two incidents herein reported.

copy to UN
on PA

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

175/11/29
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper..... *Foreign Radio Broadcast* File No..... *667/11/29*
Published at.....
Date..... *5/9/59*

GLUBB PASHA WARNS ARABS AGAINST ISRAEL

Beirut, in Arabic to Lebanon and the Near East, Sept. 1, 1951, 1100 GMT--K

(Excerpts)

"Amman--ANA reports that the Jordan Capital is preparing to receive His Highness, Amir Talal. On this occasion Gen. Glubb Pasha, the Commander in Chief of the Jordan Army, made a statement in which he said that his relations with Amir Talal are as good as possible. He asserted that the rumor regarding his dispute with Amir Talal is fabricated and without foundation.

"Referring to rumors regarding the attitude of the British toward the Jordan Throne, Glubb Pasha said that he is not an employee of the British Government, but that he believes that neither Britain nor anyone else has any business interfering in this question, because it is a purely internal affair of the Jordan Kingdom. Referring to the Palestine War and to the questions it raised, he said: 'The Jordan Hashimite Kingdom is not in an enviable position in this connection. I assert to the Arab world that the campaigns which were directed against this Kingdom were unjust. The Jordan Army bore the burdens of the Palestine War more than others, and there are more Palestinian refugees in the Jordan Kingdom than anywhere else.'

"Glubb Pasha then expressed his doubt as to the usefulness of peace with the Jews, and said: 'They are a people who have no conscience, and keep the peace only if checked by specific international factors. I am surprised,' he added, 'how people in general and Arabs in particular have forgotten Israel, which is lurking amidst the Arab world to create problems only 3 years after the Palestine War. Even people here in the Jordan Kingdom have forgotten. I fear that events will take them by surprise before they awake.'

"Concluding his statement, he said: 'I assert that our great concern is the Jews. Were it not for them there would be no cause for concern in the Arab East.'"

In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 1072/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV. Israel.

5th October, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Jordan border incident.

I refer to Memo. No. 1040/51 of 27th September 1951 regarding the ambush of an Israel Command car by a group of infiltrators on the Ein Husb/Sodom Road.

2. The Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission has ruled that the action constituted a clear violation of the Israel/Jordan Armistice Agreement. The Commission called on Jordan to prevent such incidents from recurring.

*Copy to VN
in PA*

J.C. Ingram,
Third Secretary.

C-8



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo. No. 1040/51.



TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.

27th September, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Jordan Border Incident.

On 23rd September, Israel lodged a strongly-worded complaint with the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission regarding an incident on 21st September in which five Israel soldiers were wounded, four of them seriously, when they were ambushed by Arabs on the Sodom - Ein Husb road. This road leads for 20 miles along the Wadi Araba northward to the southern end of the Dead Sea where Sodom is located.

2. The Israel authorities allege that the vehicle containing the soldiers was on its way to Sodom when an un-identified number of Arabs opened fire on it at 11.30 am. The five occupants were hit when they leaped out to take cover under the truck. They opened fire on their attackers with a machine gun and forced them to retire.

3. It is believed that the infiltrators came from two villages adjacent to the road since in August persons from these villages had caused an incident which the Jordan authorities had promised to investigate.


J.C. Ingram,
Third Secretary.



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo. No. 985/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.

4th September, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel and the situation in Transjordan.

I heard, a few days following the assassination of King Abdullah, that the Israel Ministry for Foreign Affairs had handed a statement to the representatives of Great Britain, the United States and France on the subject of Israel's position in the event of continued unrest in Transjordan. I did not report it at the time because I was unable to obtain any confirmation, but I now learn that such a document was handed to the representatives of the countries mentioned as joint guarantors in 1950 of the integrity of the existing frontiers in the Middle East. The Government of Israel apparently said that every change in the position of Transjordan would be regarded as an infringement of Israel's rights; that Israel would consider herself free to act in order to safeguard her interests in case Transjordan lost her independence, or in the event of Syrian or Iraqi troops moving their forces into Jordan, or should any union of Transjordan with Iraq become an established fact.

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

PA

P/17/9.
Memo. No. 985/51.


Israel.
4th September, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

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G.C.W. Fuhman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. UC:G

Memo. No. 983/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.

TEL AVIV. Israel.

4th September, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Glubb Pasha's opinion of Jews.

"If it were not for the Jews to keep us occupied so much of the time; if it were not for these people without character who cannot be trusted, there would be peace in the Middle East and the area would be free of incident." This statement is attributed to Glubb Pasha and appeared in "A-Diffa" - a daily produced in the Old City of Jerusalem.

2. Glubb was further reported as saying that he was very doubtful whether there was much chance of peace being negotiated with the Jews. He added that the Palestine War had left Jordan in an unenviable position; Furthermore, all anti-Jordan campaigns were unjustified.

3. He asserted that he was not a British official and that Britain had no influence whatever in the choice of a successor to the Transjordan Throne.

Handwritten initials 'a' and 'm'

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

UC:G
Memo. No. 983/51.

Israel.
4th September, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Glubb Pasha's opinion of Jews.

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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CANBERRA.

Name of Paper. *Mugh Radio Broadcast* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at. Date. *29/8/57*

JORDAN GUILTY OF ARMISTICE VIOLATION

Jerusalem (Israel), in Hebrew to Israel and the Near East, Aug. 28, 1951,
1730 GMT--K

(Text)

"The Israel-Transjordan Mixed Armistice Commission today decided in Jerusalem that the Armistice Agreement between the two countries has been violated by the murder of two employees of the Public Works Department and the injury of two others on the road between Ein Hasb and (Sdom). At the last minute, the Transjordan delegation tried to prevent a clear denunciation by preparing a draft resolution according to which the denunciation applied only when it is proved that the murderers were Transjordan nationals. This version was rejected by the vote of the representatives of the United Nations.

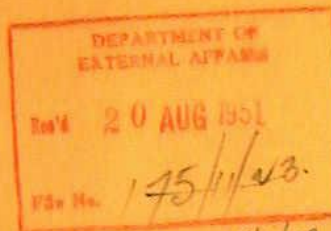
"The Commission maintained that it was convinced by the conclusions of the Mixed Investigations Committee that the murderers came from Transjordan territory and escaped to it. The Transjordan delegation undertook to hold a thorough investigation in two villages, which it is believed served as a refuge for the murderers, and to bring the guilty parties before the law. The results of the investigations will be given to Israel. The decision of the Mixed Armistice Commission reaffirms the principle already fixed, namely, that the signatories of the Armistice Agreement are responsible for the acts committed by the inhabitants of their respective countries, whether the acts are committed with or without the knowledge of their respective Governments.

"Col. de Ridder presided over the session. The Transjordan delegation announced that Ahmad Tugan had been appointed senior Transjordan representative on the Mixed Armistice Commission in place of Ahmad Khalil."



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo No. 860/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

6th August, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: The drainage of the Huleh marsh-
lands - the effect of that project
on water supplies for Transjordan.

1. On June 8th 1951, the Government of Transjordan lodged a complaint with the United Nations in which it was alleged that, as a result of the diversion of the waters of the River Jordan, as part of the Israel project of draining the Huleh marshlands, the normal volume of water available below the Palestine Electric Corporation's dam at Degania, had fallen to a mere trickle - far short of what was usually available for irrigating Jordan farmlands, and that the reduced flow had become useless and indeed dangerous owing to its greatly increased salinity. In the complaint lodged with the United Nations by the Jordan government, these conditions were attributed to action by Israel.
2. It is the view of the Israel Foreign Office that the complaint, in the form lodged, is without justification; and that, in any case, since the problem is a technical one of agreement between the riparian states directly concerned, should not have been placed before United Nations. The Foreign Office feel that the occasion may have been chosen for political purposes, with the object of giving currency to allegations damaging to Israel - especially as Jordan is alleged to have made no effort of any kind through the Mixed Armistice Commission to seek the co-operation of Israel in improving the flow of Jordan River water south of Degania. I do not know nor, at the moment, can I find out whether this is so.
3. The Israel Foreign Office contends that Israel is under no obligation to Jordan - except, perhaps, that of "good neighbourliness", in the matter of the regulation of the river's volume. Experts of the Government of Israel say that until the dam at Degania was built under the Huleh project, the volume of water throughout the summer and winter was conditioned solely by natural causes, and varied between two cubic metres per second towards the end of the summer to 58 cubic metres in mid-winter. The building of the dam, under concession from the Palestine Mandatory Government, by the Electric Corporation, as a contribution to the hydro-electric power station at the confluence of the Yarmuk and the Jordan, brought about the storage of surplus winter waters and the equalization of the river's

Copy in
UN

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PA

flow, south of the dam, in summer and winter.

4. The project was said to be of inestimable value for irrigation in the riverine territory belonging to Jordan. But the main purpose of the dam remained the provision of a steady volume of water to the power house. The Government of Israel allege that the main purpose was done away with by the action of Jordan in occupying the power house in 1946 and refusing, since then, to restore to the Palestine Electric Company its right to operate the plant. The Israel Foreign Office assert that there is no legal basis for Jordan's complaint regarding the secondary effects of its own refusal to allow the power house to be worked. Aside from this, the extraordinary drop of the flow of Jordan water, and the salinity of such volume as there is, are, of course, in considerable measure a consequence of the exceptional draught of last winter. Israel water experts say that the flow of the Jordan is now subject to natural causes only - as it was before the construction of the Degania dam.

5. The problem appears to be purely technical, and it is understood that Israel will be willing to discuss means of regulating the future flow of water without introducing conditions for her co-operation of a nature which may more properly belong to other than technical regulations. There are, of course, undisclosed political considerations which might and probably will re-act against agreement being reached on the lines suggested by Israel, but the latter's proposal for co-operation on this issue has gone to the Mixed Armistice Commission for consideration and discussion, and copies of the Israel Note on the subject have been sent to the Governments of United Kingdom and the U.S.A.



O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.


175/11/29

214: 2700 July 1951

Rec'd: 7th August 1951
1000

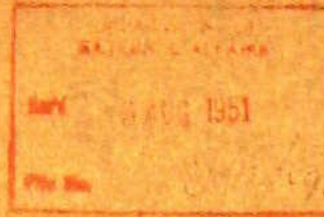
July 1950
August 1950

Jordan.

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7th August 1951

U.S. (L.) ☒
 U.S. (R.) ☒
 U.S. (Adm.) ☒
 U.S. (L. & R.) ☒
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 Pub. Ass. ☒
 E. R. ☒
 Pub. ☒
 West ☒
 Central ☒
 N. L. ☒
 Pub. & Pro. ☒



In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo. No. 802/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.

TEL AVIV, Israel.

20th July, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Transjordan relations.

1. "Incidents" and clashes-at-arms between Israel and Transjordan troops continue to occur with frequency on the frontier, and there are daily reports, by both sides, of incursions by irregulars, and, by Israel, of bands of armed infiltrators carrying out predatory raids deep into Israel territory.
2. Many of these breaches of the Israel/Transjordan Armistice are taking place in the vicinity of Jerusalem, which, for the past month or six weeks, has been a particularly unhealthy and disturbed area. On July 17th 1951, the Arab Legion High Command issued a statement enumerating and giving particulars of twelve recent penetrations into Jordan territory by units of the Israel Army - raids in connection with which the Arab Legion allege that it had irrefutable evidence of their being planned in advance by the Israel Army Command, for "specific political and military purposes". Instances were cited of Israel Army units firing a dozen or so mortar bombs into an Arab village a few miles west of Bethlehem - Wadi Fugan; of an Israel patrol penetrating some kilometres into Jordan territory, throwing a few hand grenades into a village and then making off; of sporadic Israel rifle fire by Israel troops into Arab areas adjacent to "no-mans-land" and so on.
3. Israel, on its part, has counter-charged the Jordan authorities on counts involving mostly activities of armed Arab marauders who have crossed the lines, penetrated deep into Israel territory, carried out large-scale thefts, and, when detected or discovered, have opened fire on civilian Israelis or Israel Army units or police by which they might have been intercepted. In some cases, the Arabs are accused of a few acts of throat-cutting. On the Israel side of the "lines" in the vicinity of Jerusalem, Israel householders living in isolated places are reported to be "nervy" and "on-edge" - despite the fact that the number of Israel Army patrols in the zone has been augmented and the strength of individual patrols increased.

copy to Mr. PA

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/14.
Memo. No. 816/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.

23rd July, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Certain aspects of reaction in Israel to
the assassination of King Abdullah.

1. The news of the assassination of King Abdullah was received in Israel with incredulity, but, later, when the report was confirmed, with much excitement and no little astonishment. So far as I have heard, and I was in *Jerusalem (Israel) during the week-end, there were no incidents - except that a few people were hit by stray bullets, ricochets or bullets deliberately fired from the Old City. However, having regard to the natural excitement and disturbed conditions prevailing in that City, the Israel authorities took a wise and reasonable view of the occurrences and of the casualties, made no complaint and merely warned residents of Jerusalem to avoid "sight-seeing in the vicinity of the frontier" and, as far as possible, to stay indoors. On Sunday, July 22nd, two days after the assassination of Abdullah, intermittent firing could still be heard in Jerusalem (Israel) from the direction of the Old City. Jerusalem, Israel, and the Old City are, of course, separated only by a hundred yards or so at the most, and, in many places, by a distance of feet only.
2. I learned yesterday, July 22nd 1951, from the British and American Service Attachés, that, so soon as the news of King Abdullah's death was confirmed in Israel, orders were given to the Israel Army and Air Force to "stand-to"; all leave was cancelled; officers and other ranks on leave were recalled and the garrison at Sarafand, 40 kilometres from Jerusalem, was strengthened by drafting in a mixed Brigade from another area.
3. Foreign observers in Israel, and especially Service Attachés, are watching the trend of military moves in this country very closely and with much interest and concern, for it is remarked that it is not beyond the bounds of possibility, if it became known in Israel that the situation in the Old City was completely out-of-hand, the Israel Army Command, on the pretext of guarding the Wailing Wall and other Holy Places from desecration, might decide to move into the Old City. It is known that the Arab Legion is occupied "somewhere in the region of the Trans-Jordan/Syrian frontier", and it is felt that the operation of taking over the Old City could be accomplished with comparative ease by a numerically small but determined force. Diplomatic circles in Israel, in which this thought is being discussed, point out that this hypothesis is based on chance remarks dropped by highly-placed Israel Army officers in the course of conversation with foreign Service Attachés. At the same time, it is remembered that

* Seeing Counsel for one of the Templar persons - see my
Savignam No. 5 dated July 23rd 1951. OOWF.

the statement made by H.M.G. in the House of Commons on April 27th 1950, when the United Kingdom Government extended the provisions of the Anglo-Jordan Treaty of Alliance of 1948 to all territory incorporated in the Hashemite Kingdom of the Jordan and the provisions of that Treaty were specifically applied to the Old City of Jerusalem unless or until the United Nations should themselves establish effective authority in that area.

4. The situation, as I write, is very obscure but there is no evidence, at the moment, of action on the above lines being taken by Israel. But it is a contingency which, in certain circumstances, might develop and, for that reason, is being borne in mind.



O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

P/17/14.

Memo. No. 818/51.

Israel.

23rd July, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Certain aspects of reaction in Israel to
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OCWF.

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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

175/11/29

SECRET.

**ACTION
COPY**

NORTH
 SOUTH
 EAST
 WEST
 CENTRAL

CABLEGRAM.

175/11/29
SECRET.

DEB/JH

I.13476

DECODED FROM :

**ACTION
COPY**

Dated: 27th July, 1961

1108

Recvd: 28th July, 1961

0830

Australian Legation,
TEL AVIV.67. **SECRET.**

Situation in Transjordan.

I visited Jerusalem early today 27th July, and there are signs that the major crisis in the old city and Transjordan generally has quieted, and that beyond sporadic clashes here and there, the situation is well in hand. Mass arrests said to have broken the friction by which it was earlier feared revolution might be staged. I gathered that this was mostly with Palestinian Arabs with whom the Arab Legion appears to have dealt with very effectively if somewhat ruthlessly. It is significant that of Tewfik's new cabinet of 11 only 4 are Palestinians. Further trouble from rival factions on the question of the ultimate succession to the throne, and/or as a result, ex-Mufti's activities can not be dismissed as unlikely. For the moment, however, the situation is comparatively quiet.

2. Israel political circles are not conceding their concern about the recent trouble in Transjordan, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs has said that the Government and Army maintains "special watchfulness". Ministry has stated that Israel would not remain inactive should the Arab armies attempt to implement any plan for unity between certain Arab States.

3. The thought still persists in Diplomatic circles in Israel that if;

- (a) there were recrudescence widespread riots and general disorder in Transjordan and the situation in that country got completely out of hand, and/or
- (b) if any Arab State or States attempted to exploit the present situation or situations resulting from (a), Israel might adopt military measures.

4. Period of unrest inevitable but I will not telegraph again unless major crisis develops, or unless I have positive information that the situation in Transjordan has worsened seriously.

Fuhrman.

A/Min. & Dept. E.A.
Min. & Dept. Defence
P.M.'s.

29th July, 1961

SECRETARY

G.S. (U.N.)

A.S. (D.R.)

A.S. (Admin.)

G.S. (L. & T.)

U.N.

Gen. Sec.

R. R.

Post.

West

Central

E.T.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In reply quote No. P/2/2.
Memo. No. 784/51.

DATE 27 JUL 1951

FILE NO. 175/199

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV, ISRAEL.
13th July, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Frontier incidents reported from Transjordan.

1. Radio Ramallah has reported that an Israel patrol penetrated into Jordan-held territory near the road to Bethlehem on the night of July 10th 1951.
2. According to the Ramallah announcement, the patrol was repelled by National Guardsmen. There were no injured in the clash, it said.
3. A later Radio Ramallah report said that the alleged attack took place at 12.30 a.m. on the date mentioned, at Husan village and that it involved a unit of 10 Israel soldiers. Ramallah added that the battle lasted several hours and that Jordan has lodged a protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission.
4. Residents of Bet Safafa and Mahanat (Malha) villages have reported that a number of shots were fired into their villages by unknown persons on July 10th. The villages are on the border south-east of Jerusalem.

*copy to UN
on PA*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

In reply quote No. P/17/14.
Memo. No. 757/51.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

20 JUL 1951

175/11/29

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.
9th July, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Border incidents - Israel/Transjordan.

During the week ended July 9th 1951, several border incidents occurred in the Musrara quarter of Jerusalem, where, on one occasion, Arab Legion troops were said to have shot at and wounded three Jews on the Israel side of the border. A few days earlier, a twenty-four year old immigrant was shot and killed in the same area. Israel has lodged a complaint with the Mixed Armistice Commission.

2. Transjordan has reported to the Commission that, on July 6th 1951, Israel troops opened fire from positions in Musrara at crowds in front of the Damascus Gate in the Old City of Jerusalem. Several casualties were reported. Incidentally, if this report be true - that the Jews opened fire on the Damascus Gate, they could scarcely avoid inflicting casualties, for it is at this comparatively small Gate that thousands of people converge daily to enter the Old City.

copy to JN
PA


O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



GENERAL

S/2236
10 July 1951

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 6 JULY 1951 FROM THE ENVOY EXTRAORDINARY AND MINISTER
PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE HASHIMITE KINGDOM OF THE JORDAN TO THE
UNITED STATES ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

I have the honour to refer to our meeting on Tuesday, 19 June 1951, and to request the release to the honourable delegates at the United Nations of the cablegram sent to Your Excellency on 7 June 1951, by the Jordanian Minister for Foreign Affairs, concerning the complaint of the Hashimite Kingdom of the Jordan against Israel for the interference of the latter with the natural flow of the waters of the River Jordan, together with the report of the Jordanian Director of Lands and Surveys which I presented, at the meeting referred to above, with a map illustrating the report on the salinity of the River Jordan.

With respect to the presentation of the case to the Security Council, I shall notify Your Excellency of the reply of the Jordanian Government immediately upon its receipt.

(Signed) Dr. Y. HAIKAL
Envoy Extraordinary and
Minister Plenipotentiary

51-14282

/ANNEX I
S/2236

ANNEX I

CABLEGRAM DATED 7 JUNE 1951 FROM THE JORDANIAN MINISTER FOR
FOREIGN AFFAIRS TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, CONCERNING
THE WATERS OF THE RIVER JORDAN

I have honour request Your Excellency place on record following complaint and protest concerning infringement by Israeli Authorities against riparian rights of Hashemite Kingdom Jordan and take immediate steps ordering stoppage this aggression. Investigations carried out by Jordan Government experts established fact that Government Israel held up natural flow of River Jordan at southern outlet Lake Tiberias, namely at Deganiya Jewish settlement lying Israeli territory.

Quantity water thus held up estimated at 528,500,000-cubic metres per annum, a quantity which hitherto been used irrigation purposes in Jordan valley south Lake Tiberias in Jordan territory. Loss this water has caused considerable increase in salinity of waters River Jordan together with lowering its water level.

Seven pumps situated immediately north of Palestine Electric Corporation reservoir forming part of Idel Power Station and which now also operated by Israelis support Jordan Government contention. Amount of water removed by operation estimated 31,500,000 cubic metres per annum.

Abnormal rise in salinity has become catastrophic to cultivators who take irrigation water by pumps on both sides River Jordan in Jordan territory. Salinity its waters during British Mandatory period never exceeded 300 parts per million - permissible maximum for irrigation under Jordan valley soil conditions - whereas tests carried by Jordan Government experts during past three months showed this salinity have risen 1,130 parts per million at Allenby Bridge on Amman Jerusalem Highway.

Same disastrous salinity moreover decisively precluding all schemes of Palestine Arab refugees settlement in Jordan valley.

Unless prompt action taken to prevent this illegal interference by Israel in free flow of River Jordan at Deganiya, the general economy of Jordan Kingdom bound be seriously affected and all further development in irrigation from river must cease.

/I shall be

I shall be grateful therefore if you kindly inform me at earliest possible of measures which you will take to stop and prevent continuance this grave interference in normal flow of waters River Jordan caused by violations and flagrant contravention of international law.

Anastas HANANIA

Minister for Foreign Affairs

/ANNEX II

ANNEX II

REPORT OF THE JORDANIAN DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND SURVEYS TO THE
JORDANIAN MINISTER OF FINANCE AND ECONOMY

I have the honour to report that I proceeded to the Palestine Electric Corporation Power Station at Jisr el Majami on 12 May in order to investigate the causes for the serious drop in the discharge of the River Jordan which was thought to be responsible for the high salinity of the water of the river now prevailing between Jisr Sheikh Husein and the Dead Sea.

The investigation on the spot brought to light the following facts relating to the reservoir forming part of the Power Station.

1. The Arab Legion guard, who has been stationed at the P.E.C. works for two and a half years stated that as a rule the level of the reservoir remained constant within narrow limits, falling slightly during the day and rising again at night. This agrees with my own observations on my occasional visits to the place.
2. The Irrigation Officials present stated the variation in the level was probably due to the operation of Jewish pumps, stated to be seven in number, which are located on the north bank of the River Yarmuk for the purpose of raising water on to the lands of the Jewish settlement of Ashdot Yacov.
3. Three of the sluices attached to the penstocks leading to the turbine of the P.E.C. were leaking badly.
4. As the reservoir is being continually replenished by the full flow of the Yarmuk and as the level remains constant it is clear that the reservoir, at the level obtaining at the time of inspection, does not affect the volume of water flowing from the Yarmuk into the Jordan since at this level a state of equilibrium had been reached where the volume of water leaking through the sluices and the escape channel equals the discharge of the Yarmuk.
5. A comparison of the discharge measurements taken in the Yarmuk above Adasiya and in the Jordan at Jisr Sheikh Husein sixteen kilometres down stream from the confluence of the two rivers is shown in the table subjoined.

/Date

<u>Yarmuk</u>		<u>Jordan Jisr Sheikh Hussein</u>	
<u>Date</u>	(M ³ per sec.)	<u>Date</u>	(M ³ per sec.)
9/4/51	9.0	6/4/51	6.2
17/4/51	6.8	12/4/51	6.9
2/5/51	8.0	19/4/51	9.3
		26/4/51	11.6
		3/5/51	6.5

It will be seen from the above discharge measurements that except for the 19th and 26th of April the discharge of the Jordan at this point was approximately equivalent to the discharge of the Yarmuk after making allowances for the water absorbed by the Adasiya canal and the Jewish pumps.

The only conclusion that can be drawn from these figures is that for periods which may be long or short the gates at Deganiya interfere with the normal flow of the Jordan at its outlet from Lake Tiberias.

It is also significant that a study of the discharge records at Deganiya for the months of April and May in 1936 after a season of poor rainfall (47 per cent below normal in the Hulah area) shows that the average discharge during April was 7.5 M³ per second and for May 5.9 M³ per second. In view of the climatic analogue for the rainy seasons of 1935-1936 and 1950-1951 it may be assumed that, provided there was a free flow through the Deganiya sluice gates, the discharge of the Jordan during the months of April and May 1951 should be of the same order, and the combined flow of the Jordan and the Yarmuk at Jisr Sheikh Hussein should average at least 14.5 M³ per second in April and 13 M³ per second in May.

In its course between Lake Tiberias and the Dead Sea the Jordan receives increments from saline drainage and springs particularly in the middle reaches which, however, are diluted normally by the fresh water from Lake Tiberias and the Yarmuk to the extent that the resulting salinity during the Mandatory period never exceeded 300 parts per million (the permissible maximum for irrigation under Jordan Valley soil conditions) even during periods of low discharge.

Salinity tests of the Jordan water are now being made regularly at Jisr Sheikh Hussein, Jisr Damiyah and the Allenby Bridge, the results of which are tabulated as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>JISR SHEIKH HUSEIN</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>JISR DAMIYA</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>ALLENBY BRIDGE</u>
<u>Sodium Chloride (NaCl): Parts per Million</u>					
21/4/51	365	14/4/51	468	23/3/51	952
26/4/51	320	21/4/51	555	30/3/51	1132
28/4/51	307	1/5/51	436	6/4/51	969
1/5/51	355			13/4/51	999
8/5/51	349			20/4/51	944
				28/4/51	982

/It is clear

It is clear therefore that the reduction in the normal flow of the Jordan by closing the sluice gates controlled by the Jews at Deganiya has increased the salinity of the river to such an extent as to make irrigation no longer feasible between Jisr Sheikh Husein and the Dead Sea.

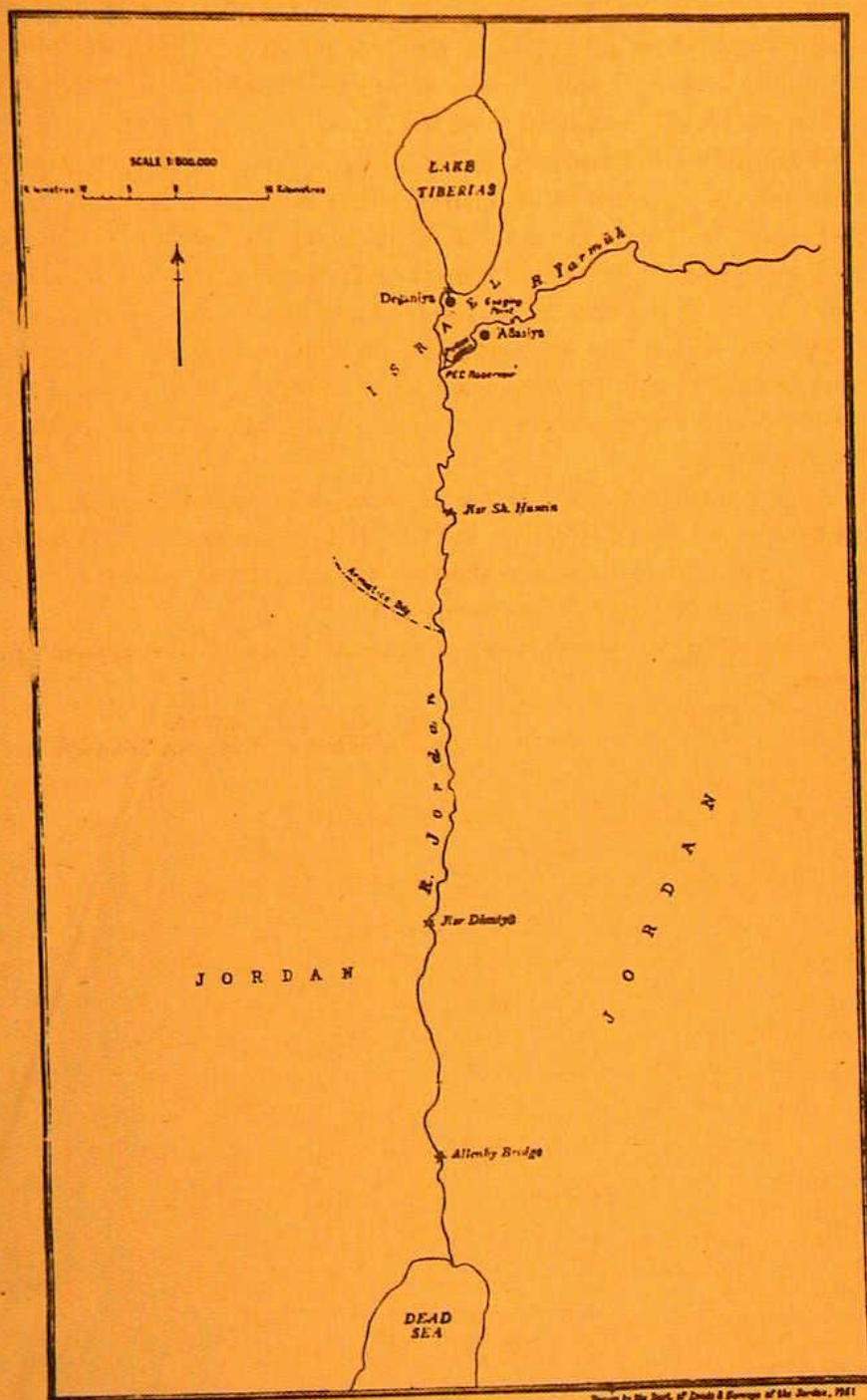
The consequences arising from this abnormal increase in the salinity of the Jordan can only be described as disastrous to the existing cultivators taking irrigation water by pumps on both sides of the river, but also it effectively and decisively precludes all schemes of refugee settlement in the Jordan Valley. I am informed by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East that it has under active consideration four schemes in this area, each one dependent on pumping water from the river. Private enterprise is also engaged in developing land in the Valley with the intention of pumping water from the same source.

Therefore, unless immediate action is taken by Government to prevent the existing unwarranted interference in the free flow of the river at Deganiya, the economy of Jordan will be seriously affected and all further development depending on irrigation from the River Jordan must cease.

For easy reference I attach a map on which is shown all places mentioned in this report.

(Signed) G.F. WALPOLE
Director of Lands and Surveys

/ANNEX III



DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CANBERRA.

Name of Paper. *D. M. R. Karsch*

File No. *175/11/29*

Published at. *Melbourne*

Date. *16/7/51*

16/7/51 - 12.01 p.m.

JORDAN HAS TAKEN SECURITY MEASURES all along her borders with the Jewish State of Israel, following increased breaches of Jordan territory by the Jews. The Arab Legion headquarters have reported five (breaches) of Jordan territory by the Jews within a week.



In reply quote No. A/20/1.
Memo. No. 667/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV: Israel.
20th June, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Bartley Crum gives a fillip to Israeli territorial aspirations.

1. Bartley Crum, the American author of "Behind the Silken Curtain" and sometime a member of the Anglo-American Committee on Palestine, is visiting Israel and doing a lot of writing for the local press and speaking in public.
2. Every Saturday evening, "Kol Israel", the Israel broadcasting network, features what is known as the "Vocal Newspaper" - a series of five minute talks by visitors of eminence or by local persons of note. Bartley Crum spoke on Saturday, June 16th, and, in the course of his remarks, said that "the maintenance of Jordan forces in Palestine territory constitutes a violation of the Mandate". He stressed that he did not believe in the possibility of a true and stable peace between Israel and the Arab States so long as the borders of Israel were not identical with those of Mandatory Palestine west of the Jordan River. "Only the State of Israel, from an economic and security point of view, is likely to remain a stable political factor in the Middle East", he said - and added, "It is logical that the State of Israel accepts 'temporarily' the existing frontiers."
3. Somewhat mischievous statements by a visitor.

*copy on 175/11/20
c-PA*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/14.

Memo No. 654/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

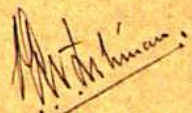
18th June, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Another clash between Israel and
Transjordan Army units.

1. A frontier clash occurred on June 14th 1951, near Kafr Jammal - twenty miles south of Nablus, when Israel Army units and a detachment of the Transjordan National Guard came into conflict.
2. The Israel Army report is that Arab shepherds and their flocks penetrated into Israel territory in the Triangle border area. They were accompanied by a detachment of the Transjordan National Guard which opened fire when challenged by an Israel patrol. The Arabs were driven back across the frontier. There was a lengthy exchange of fire in the course of which both sides sustained some casualties - an undisclosed number.
3. The Transjordan version is that, when Arab shepherds were watering their flocks near the village of Jammal, they were ambushed by about fifty Israeli soldiers. The Jordan National Guard unit on duty in the area hurried to the scene of firing and engaged the Israel troops - killing several and wounding "a number". Jordan sources do not disclose how the engagement ended.

W. J. M. H. N.
PA

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *Excerpt from Iraq Command Intelligence Review* File No. *175/11/29*
 Published at.....
 Date *1950*.....

Jordan-Israel Negotiations. *14 on 175/11/29*

Throughout the year intermittent negotiations have been conducted between Israel and King Abdullah and his emissaries. The terms of these negotiations have usually been along the lines of (a) a five year non-aggression pact; (b) the fixing of existing frontiers; (c) the opening of trade between the two countries and a free zone in Haifa for Jordan, with transit rights in return for Israel; and (d) access to the Wailing Wall and to Mount Scopus. These direct negotiations include proposals for the partitioning of Jerusalem in contradiction of the United Nations plan for internationalisation.

Jerusalem.

One of the outstanding problems affecting Israel-Jordan relations is that of Jerusalem. The United Nations Assembly and its special committees have repeatedly put forward proposals for internationalisation of the city. Neither Jordan nor Israel are prepared to accept such a solution, Israel claiming that internationalisation would disfranchise 100,000 Israelis in Jerusalem. Modified proposals for international supervision of the Holy Places, have been rejected by Jordan. As only two of the 36 Holy Places are in Israel, such a measure would obviously favour Israel, as it would require the surrender by Jordan to the international authority of much territory that is of strategic importance in the defence of Jerusalem and West Jordan. Failure of the United Nations to produce any new resolution concerning Jerusalem and the Holy Places has generally been interpreted in Jordan as a victory for Jordan over the other Arab states, who have constantly pressed for internationalisation of the city.

Border Incidents.

There has been a continuation throughout the year of border incidents involving the shooting and kidnapping of Arabs and Jews. There were however two major clashes which have caused a deterioration in Jordanian-Israeli relations. The first was in August when Jewish forces occupied an island in the area of Rutenburg power station at the confluence of the Yarmuk and Jordan rivers (at Jisr Majami). The area in question was never part of Palestine and had formed part of Transjordan territory though Jews maintained that the disputed area was shown as belonging to them on maps signed by Arab military representatives at the Rhodes Armistice. Israeli forces later withdrew confining their activities to patrols covering the area in question. The second clash came on 2nd December when troops of the Arab Legion established a road block on a diversion from the main supply road to Elath in the area of Ain Gharandal on the Wadi Arabs and which the Jordan Government claimed ran through Jordan territory. Troops accompanying an Israeli convoy attempted to force the block and opened fire. An Armistice Commission order to cease fire was carried out by both sides. The matter was referred to the Armistice Commission who investigated the rival claims. Meanwhile, at the time of writing (January 1951) Israeli traffic continues to use the diversion.

Excerpt from Iraq Command Intelligence Review 1950

JORDAN : ANNUAL REVIEW OF 1950.

Internal Affairs.

1. Movement in the west bank fostered by followers of Haj Amin el Hussaini and aided by certain state members of the Arab League, and by Communists against the holding of elections for a common Parliament. But large proportion of electorate voted and more interest shown in the elections than in east bank.
2. Parliament opened on 24th April - a Council of Notables (30) appointed by the King and a Council of Representatives (40). Seats in theory equally divided between east and west banks, but actually west predominated.
3. Unanimous vote in favour of the union of the two parts of the Kingdom and Act given royal assent immediately.
4. United Kingdom recognised union and made the Anglo-Jordan Treaty of Alliance applicable to the whole.
5. Numerous ministerial crises during the year.
6. In April, Tewfia Pasha was replaced as premier by Said Pasha el Mufti.
7. Said Pasha resigned in December following the Wadi Arabah (with Israel) incident and was succeeded by Sami Pasha Rifai.
8. Presence of delegates from west bank made Parliament less subservient to the King and his ministers.
9. Both the Notables and Representatives were firm in their opposition to any contacts with the Israeli authorities.
10. UNRWA took over in May the responsibility for the care and resettlement of Palestinian refugees. Number of destitute refugees at end of year greater than at the beginning; their morale and discipline deteriorated.
11. Red Transjordan law making Communism illegal was applied to west bank.
12. There also existed in Orthodox Christian quarters some support for Russia.

Foreign Affairs.

1. Treaties of friendship signed with Persia, Spain and Afghanistan.
2. First meeting of Joint Defence Board provided for in the Anglo-Jordan Treaty took place at Amman in November 1950.
3. Jordan maintained opposition to scheme for internationalisation of Jerusalem. Failure of United Nations to produce a new decision about future of Jerusalem was regarded locally as a victory for Jordan.
4. Jordan declined to sign Collective Security Pact.
5. Stronger west bank influence in Parliament was strongly against the renewal of discussions with Israelis as attempted by Abdullah.
6. Jisr Majami incident in September. Jordan's appeal to Security Council rejected.

Note for file 175/11/29

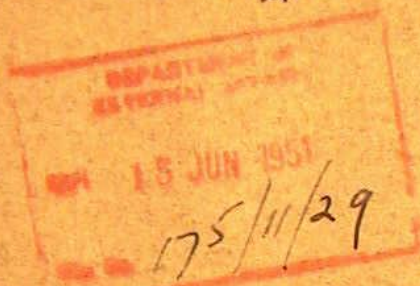
See file 175/12

for Tel Aviv memo 553/51

15th May describing
flight of Maali aircraft
over Jordan territory
during Independence
Day celebrations.



reply quote No. P/2/2.
emo. No. 599/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV. Israel.
30th May, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Another incident on the Israel/Transjordan
frontier.

1. An official statement published in Amman on May 28th 1951 alleged that, on May 27th Israel forces fired on Jordan workers in the Latrun area and that several of the latter were wounded.
2. The Near East Broadcasting Station, Cyprus, (British controlled) also reported this affray, and said the firing by the Jews was as a consequence of about sixty Arabs refusing to leave Israel territory after crossing the frontier illegally.

*copy to UN
in PA*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 582/51.

8 JUN 1951

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV. Israel.
24th May, 1951.

File No.

175/11/29.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Transjordan troops clash in
the Hebron area.

1. A clash between Israel troops and patrols of the Arab Legion occurred in the Hebron area on May 22nd 1951.
2. The Israel story is merely that a "minor" clash occurred when Arab villagers in the Hebron area crossed into Israel territory to harvest crops. It was, however, a clash sufficiently important for the B.B.C. to record in its news-bulletin of 7 a.m. today - May 24th 1951.
3. The Transjordan Radio Ramallah put out an official report on May 23rd that some sixty or seventy Israel troops entered Idna village and opened fire on the occupants. An eight-hour exchange of fire with Arab Legion patrols followed, in the course of which, according to report, Israel troops suffered a number of casualties and were compelled to withdraw.
4. A Jordan communique issued last night, May 23rd 1951, reported another attack by Israel troops on Khirbet e-Ras, a village in the same area, which it is alleged about twenty of them entered and were again driven out by Legion patrols.

[Signature]
O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

P/12/9.
Memo. No. 553/51.

Israel.
15th May, 1951.

MEMORANDUM For:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel Independence Day Celebrations in
Jerusalem - the Army Parade and a display by
the Israel Air Force.


1. Israel's Independence Day, May 11th 1951, was marked in Jerusalem by, among other things, a parade of Israel Army units and of weapons of war possessed by Israel, and by a display by the Israel Air Force.

2. I had as a guest to luncheon on Sunday, May 13th, the Minister for the Netherlands, Jonkheer van Karnebeek, who lives in Jerusalem, Israel, and who, in addition to being accredited to Israel, is also Consul-General for the Netherlands in Transjordan. van Karnebeek told me that he witnessed both the Israel Army Parade and the Air Force display and mentioned that he counted twenty Sherman tanks in the "March Past"; also that, in the evolutions performed by Spitfire fighters of the Israel Air Force, those aircraft flew well over Jordan territory - in fact, according to van Karnebeek, they penetrated some miles over Transjordan. He remarked that the number of Sherman tanks on display was very interesting - especially as it is always the Government of Israel by which the loudest complaint is made about Egypt possessing this type of vehicle. I found interest, however, in speculating on how many more are held in reserve by this country.

3. The British Minister, Sir Knox Helm, dined with me the same evening, and I told him of van Karnebeek's visit and what we discussed. As to the penetration of Israel aircraft over Jordan territory, Helm said he had that day spoken officially to the Israel Foreign Office about this matter, since it constituted a gross breach of the Armistice Agreement as no application had been made by Israel to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Commission for permission to fly fighter craft in the Jerusalem area; nor was permission sought of the Transjordan authorities, through, of course, the United Nations, to fly those craft in that area for display purposes or to cross the frontier into Jordan - as would doubtless be inevitable in manoeuvring fast-moving aircraft flown near the border. The Israel Foreign Office after consulting Israel Army Headquarters, admitted the faults and somewhat lamely said "they thought permission unnecessary". Helm said he pointed out to the Foreign Office that, if Transjordan fighter craft had breached the Israel/Jordan frontier, Israel fighter craft would have been airborne in a matter of minutes and would doubtless have engaged the trespassing "enemy" planes. He also suggested that, if Jordan planes, civilian or service, had flown over Israel territory, Israel anti-aircraft batteries would most probably have gone into action. The British Minister invited the Israel Foreign Office to remember Great Britain's obligations in regard to the Jordan frontier - a suggestion which, I gather, was not very well received.

2.

4. A few days subsequent to my talk with the British Minister, an informal meeting of the Israel/Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission was held - a meeting which took place, according to the Israel press, in a "friendly atmosphere" and which was marked by "mutual understanding". So soon as the meeting opened, the Israel representative asked leave to make an explanation and said that Israel Service aircraft had "accidentally" crossed the Jordan frontier on Israel Independence Day - an act for which he was authorised to express regret. This explanation was accepted by the Transjordan delegate.


O.G.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/4.
Memo. No. 556/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV. Israel.
16th May, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Another Israel/Transjordan clash.

1. Another clash has occurred on the Israel/Transjordan frontier - this time near Aula: east of Beit Jibrin. The Jordan version of the story is that, on May 14th, an Israel Army patrol fired on five Arab shepherds who were grazing flocks in the vicinity of the border. One shepherd was killed and the remainder taken prisoner. The sheep were seized by the Israel authorities.
2. An Israel Army communique stated that on May 13th an Israel patrol came on a group of Arabs, with a "plough and several camels", within Israel territory; shots were exchanged and one of the animals was killed. The plough was left where it was. The following day an Israel Army detachment went to the spot to remove the plough and were met by a band of armed Arabs. There was an exchange of fire which resulted in five Arabs being killed.
3. The incident has been reported to the United Nations Mixed Armistice Commission.

*Copy to ...
PA*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CANBERRA.

Name of Paper. *The Canberra Times* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at. *Canberra* Date. *26/5/59*

**ISRAEL-JORDAN
BORDER CLASH**

TEL AVIV, Friday
Israel and Jordan accused each other yesterday of provoking a frontier incident near Hebron, five miles South-West of Jerusalem.

Each side claimed to have beaten off the other's attacks and to have inflicted casualties.

Israel reported that two Israel soldiers had been wounded. Jordan said that one Arab shepherd had been injured.

The United Nations' Mixed Armistice Commission is expected to investigate the incident.

Meanwhile, the Syrian Government has protested for the second time to the United Nations observers against alleged violation by Israel of the Security Council's instructions to stop draining the Huleh marshes—trouble spot on the Israeli-Syrian frontier.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS. CANBERRA.

Name of Paper. *D.M.R. (BRC)* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at. *Melbourne* Date. *25/3/59*

ISRAELI BORDER DISPUTES. Representatives of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission have had talks about the recent frontier incidents near Hebron. Both sides claim to have beaten off unprovoked attacks and to have inflicted casualties.

The chairman of the U.N. Armistice Commission, General Riley, has had talks with Israel Government officials. Reports from Tel Aviv say they discussed the recent incidents on the Israeli-Syrian frontier and the forthcoming meeting of the Armistice Commission.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Rec'd 18 MAY 1951

File No.

175/11/29

In reply quote No. P/17/9.

Memo No. 466/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.

1st May, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Transjordan relations

"A-Sareeh", a weekly publication produced in the Old City of Jerusalem, Transjordan, carried an editorial, in its issue of April 28th 1951, in which it was said that peace should be concluded with Israel and a just solution of the Palestine problem should be reached.

2. Stating that the subject of peace with Israel was one of the most important topics in Jordan, the paper said there were two schools of thought in Transjordan. One, with which the paper identified itself, advocated peace on the basis of the Rhodes Agreement, adding that the international situation necessitated peace in this part of the world in order to enable the West to make the necessary preparations against the possible outbreak of war.

3. The second school of thought, according to "A-Sareeh", believed that there is no basis for peace unless Israel pays the full price in compensation and repatriation.

4. According to "A-Sareeh", the observation that "Here we see the Jews at our very side on a long common boundary; they are like a fork in the eye of civilization" is contained in the recently published second volume of King Abdullah's memoirs that is now being translated into English.

[Signature]
O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper *Foreign Radio Broadcast* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at.....
Date *27/4/51*.....

ISRAEL, JORDAN SETTLE 22 COMPLAINTS

Jerusalem (Israel), in Hebrew to Israel and the Near East,
Apr. 26, 1951, 1730 GMT--K

(Text)

"The mixed Israeli-Transjordanian Armistice Commission held two sessions in Jerusalem today, one official session and one unofficial. At the official session considerable progress was achieved and 22 complaints from both sides were struck from the agenda. Among others, two complaints concerning the recent incidents in the regions of Hebron and Latrun in the vicinity of the villages of Idna and Budrus were discussed.

"With respect to the clash in the Hebron region the Commission (decided) that both sides had crossed the Armistice Line, and it adopted two resolutions: Both sides shall introduce stricter control over their citizens and shall conduct (surprise) tours on both sides of the border, if possible with the participation of the U.N. staff.

"As to the incident which occurred near Budrus, it was (agreed) that the Transjordan forces had (begun) the violation of the Armistice although one might say almost in error, because the thing happened through lack of demarcation of the exact place of the Armistice Line. The woulded Israeli soldier who was taken prisoner by the Arab Legion will be returned as soon as his condition permits this, probably at the beginning of next week.

"The chairman of the Commission, on behalf of the United Nations, in this connection declared that the Israeli delegation had been right in its argument at the previous session that Israel had discontinued the survey of the Armistice Line only because the security situation in the region had deteriorated. The chairman requested that the work on the demarcation of the lines be resumed soon. The Israeli delegation agreed to resume this work immediately. The Transjordanian delegation will give its reply next week.

"At the unofficial meeting it was agreed among other things that the Jerusalem electric company shall be allowed to retrieve equipment which remained in the no man's land area near the Jaffa Gate. The company will use this equipment in Israeli territory. It was further agreed that the owners of an Arab (garage) shall be permitted to retrieve equipment which had remained in the no man's land near the Nablus Gate. The Commission will meet again in unofficial session on May 2 and in official session one day later.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper..... *Summary of World Broadcasts* File No. *175/11/29*

Published at..... *2-11-57*

Meeting of Israeli-Jordanian Armistice Committee

The Israeli radio disclosed that at a meeting on the 19th the Israeli-Jordanian Armistice Committee removed from its agenda 15 complaints which had been settled through direct contacts between the two sides. Jordan's complaint concerning the killing of two "infiltrators" was also removed, after it had been established that there was no connection between this matter and the Armistice Agreement. The Committee decided to extend the agreement on cooperation between the local commanders to 1st June, after a few practical amendments had been made. Both delegations expressed their satisfaction at the decrease in border incidents during the last two months, and their regret at the wide publicity given to the few incidents which had occurred. It was stated that the Arab shepherd who was detained with his herd in Israeli territory in the Beit Jibrin area on the 15th would be returned to the Jordanian authorities, who would take the necessary legal action against him. The Israeli soldier who was wounded in Israeli territory near the village of Budrus on the 13th would be returned to Israel as soon as he was in a fit state to be moved.

One of the UN representatives was quoted as stating that, when he took part in a joint patrol of officers from both sides, he encountered a group of about 25 Arab infiltrators, most of whom were armed, a few hundred metres inside Israeli territory; among them were four members of the Jordanian National Guard. The UN representative added that he had observed Arab herds grazing on Israeli territory and plots of land which had undoubtedly been ploughed by Arabs from across the border. The Jordanian representative promised that his Government would do its best to prevent infiltration. In this connection, the Israeli representative demanded that the Jordanian National Guard in the frontier zones should be replaced by regular soldiers. He pointed out that the National Guardsman had often caused rather than prevented incidents.

The meeting was conducted in a cordial atmosphere, the Jordanian delegation emphasising that occasional border incidents could not affect the "good relations" between two countries.

The next meeting of the Armistice Committee would take place on 26th of April. About seven km. of a 12km. sector of the border in the Beit Jibrin area had so far been demarcated.
(Israel in Hebrew 17.30 and in English 19.15, 19.4.51--FBIS)

175/11/29

- 001 -

I S R A E L

Apr. 20, 1951

Foreign Radio Broadcasts

CLASH BETWEEN JORDAN AND SYRIA REPORTED

Jerusalem, World Zionist Organization, in English to the Diaspora,
Apr. 19, 1951, 2100 GMT--H

(Text)

"Mafrag--Clashes took place today between a Transjordan Arab Legion patrol and a Syrian Army patrol on the border between Transjordan and Syria in the area of Mafrag. Casualties were reported from both sides."

ISRAEL, JORDAN SETTLE BORDER DISPUTES

Jerusalem (Israel). in English to Israel and the Near East, Apr. 19,
1951. 1915 GMT--K

(Text)

"The Israel-Transjordan Mixed Armistice Commission met for 4 hours in Jerusalem today and decided to strike off 15 complaints from its agenda. These had previously been settled informally by the senior members of the Commission. The agreement on cooperation between local commanders on both sides of the border was prolonged till the first of June after certain amendments were made in the light of the experience accumulated in the past 2 months.

"Both delegations expressed their satisfaction at the progress achieved in tracking down border incidents and regretted that the few that had occurred had been exaggerated in the press. The Arab shepherd who was detained with his herd in Israel territory in the Beit Jibrin area last Sunday will be returned to the Transjordan authorities, who will take the necessary legal action against him.

"The Israel soldier who was wounded in Israel territory near the village of Budrus last Friday will be returned to Israel as soon as he is in a fit state to be moved. The Transjordan delegation gave its assurance that he had been receiving the best medical attention.

ISRAEL
Apr. 20, 1951

"The U.N. Chairman of the Commission, (Col. Taxis), pointed out that much still remains to be done to improve conditions on the border. He related how, 2 days ago, accompanied by members of the Commission, he had himself suddenly come across a group of some 20 Arabs, most of them armed, within Israel territory. These included four men of the National Guard. An Arab Legion officer who was with them chased them back immediately to Transjordan territory. But, (Col. Taxis) added, had an Israel patrol come on the infiltrators unexpectedly it might have led to a clash with serious casualties. (Col. Taxis) also pointed out that he himself had seen Arab flocks in Israel territory as well as plots of land which had undoubtedly been cultivated by Arabs from across the border.

"The Transjordan delegates admitted the fact that land had been cultivated by infiltrators in Israel and promised to do all in their power to stop illegal crossings in the future. It was hoped that the demarcation of the line in this area would help prevent such crossings.

"In this connection the Israel delegation brought up a clause in the agreement of the Deputy Chiefs of Staff who had agreed that the borders be guarded by regular troops. The Israel delegate said that the Transjordan National Guard very often caused rather than prevented incidents by firing on Israel patrols trying to arrest infiltrators.

"Today's meeting was conducted throughout in a cordial atmosphere, with the Transjordan delegate emphasizing that occasional border incidents could not affect the good relations between the two countries. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, Apr. 26. Israel was represented at today's meeting by Sgan Aloof Ramati and Rav Seren (Edelman). The Transjordan representatives were Ahmad Bey Khalil and Maj. (Sadiq Bey Sarah)."

PAPER SEES WEST READY TO APPEASE ARABS

Jerusalem (Israel), in Hebrew to Israel and the Near East, Apr. 19, 1951, 1030 GMT--K

(Excerpts)

"HATZOFEH' thinks that the attitude of the Syrian representative in the Security Council and the intensive propaganda against Israel which the Arabs are now conducting in the United States indicate an effort to undermine Israel's position in general and to encroach upon our rights in the demilitarized zone in particular.

Note for file 175/11/29.

See 'The New Statesman & Nation'
Vol XL1, No. 1040, 10 Feb 51

for article:

ISRAEL & JORDAN

by R. H. S. Crossman.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper..... *D.M.R. (New Delhi)* File No. *175/11/29*
Published at..... *Melbourne*
Date..... *15/4/57*

JORDAN HAS OFFICIALLY ACCUSED ISRAELI TROOPS of violating the Israeli-Jordan armistice agreement for the third time last week. An official announcement from Amman said Israeli troops yesterday again crossed the frontier, this time in the salient, 12 miles west of Jerusalem. After a clash the Israelis withdrew under gunfire from the Jordan side.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper.....

Summary of World Broadcast File No. *175/11/29*

Published at.....

pt. IV.

Date. *13/4/51.*

Possibility of Israeli-Jordanian Peace Treaty

00713
In a Cairo transmission it was stated that according to an AP cable from Damascus Jordan might sign a peace treaty with Israel before November 1951. The report was based on reliable information from Amman where observers connected with official circles forecast that the first step would be the resignation of the present Jordanian Cabinet and the opening of peace negotiations would follow the formation of a new Cabinet. (Cairo 18.30, 3.4.51)

CONFIDENTIAL

175/11/29

CAUTION: The following Foreign Office telegram has been passed to us on a personal and unofficial basis. It is therefore desirable that it should not be quoted in communications to the United Kingdom nor referred to specifically in discussions with United Kingdom officials.

CLASSIFICATION: PRIORITY CONFIDENTIAL

OFFICE OF ORIGIN: AMMAN

REFERENCE NO.: 121

DATE OF DESPATCH: 5th April, 1951.

The Jordan Prime Minister is much concerned at the reported attacks by Israelis against Syrians in Hamme area of Yarmuk on the 4th April.

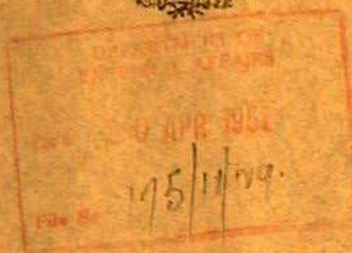
He would be grateful if His Majesty's Minister at Tel Aviv could let Israel Government know that Jordan cannot remain indifferent to what happens there.

W

W/S



In reply quote No. P/17/10.
Memo. 391/51.



AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.
6th April, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: An important visitor to Israel - Sir
Alec Kirkbride, British Minister to
Transjordan.

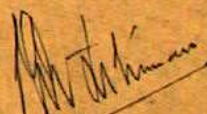
Sir Alec Kirkbride, British Minister to Transjordan,
is at present on a two-day visit to Israel and is staying
with the British Minister - Sir Knox Helm.

2. Political circles in Israel remark that this is the
first visit of the British Minister in Jordan to Israel and
that his visit is being followed with interest. It is
linked with "some sort of political activity" relating to
Israel-Jordan relations.

3. Kirkbride, whom I met at the house of the British
Minister yesterday, is regarded in Israel as a "political
figure of first rank" in Amman and is known as the person who
"behind the scenes, drafts Jordan's external and internal
policies". He is a close personal friend of King Abdullah
and has served in Palestine since 1917. He was appointed to
Amman in 1939.

4. This evening, April 6th, Kirkbride is to meet
the following at dinner at the British Minister's residence:
The Israel Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Moshe Sharett,
who is coming out of hospital specially for the occasion;
Dr. Walter Eytan, Director-General of the Israel Ministry for
Foreign Affairs and General Yadin, Chief of Staff of the
Israel Forces. Newspapers in Israel are speculating on the
reason for this visit, and are assuming that Kirkbride is here
to negotiate a solution of the Transjordan/Israel problems.

5. I am to stay with Kirkbride in Amman next week and,
on that occasion, shall probably learn more of his visit to
Israel.


O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



DEPARTMENT OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

In reply quote No. P/2/2.
Memo. No. 394/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV, Israel.
6th April, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: A clash between Transjordan and
Israel troops at Nebi Samwil,
north of Jerusalem.

The attached newscutting records a wireless transmission report that, in a clash between a number of armed Israelis and Transjordan troops at Nebi Samwil, north of Jerusalem, one Jew was killed and another was injured. It will be seen that the Transjordan authorities lodged a complaint with the Israel-Transjordan Mixed Armistice Commission.

2. The Israel authorities have denied the accuracy of the report and have stated that Arab Legionnaires opened fire on a group of Israeli soldiers who were well within Israel territory. One soldier was slightly injured in the arm and that was the only casualty which occurred.

3. There have been no further developments in this matter and the Jordan authorities have apparently not protested to the Mixed Armistice Commission as was reported by Radio Ramallah.

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

THE JERUSALEM POST

Thursday, April 5th, 1951.

Jordan Claims Clash Near Nebi Samwil

Radio Ramallah reported yesterday that one Jew was killed and another was injured when 12 armed Israelis entered Jordan territory in the vicinity of the radar station near Nebi Samwil north of Jerusalem on Tuesday.

The Jews were found digging trenches, the report claimed. An official complaint has been lodged with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, the report declared.

'Plane Flights'

"A-Diffa" reported yesterday that Jordan complaints on the "frequent flight of Israel planes over Jordan territory" and the "thefts of large flocks of sheep," were discussed at a M.A.C. sub-committee meeting on Tuesday. The search for persons missing on both sides of the armistice lines was also taken up, it was said.

NEABS reports that 85 Beduin of the Tayahi tribe, who arrived in Hebron this week, claimed they were expelled from the Beersheba area by Israel. A complaint has been lodged with the Mixed Armistice Commission, it was said.

On April, 10, 85 Palestine Arab refugees are to be repatriated via Ras el Nakura, according to an agreement between Israel and Lebanon, according to an A.N.A. report from Beirut.

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF THE AUSTRALIAN LEGATION, ISRAEL

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

Name of Paper..... *Summary of World Broadcasts* File No. *175/11/29*
 Published at.....
 Date. *23/3/51*

Armistice Commission's Resolution on Beit Jibrin Incidents

The Israeli radio (in Hebrew 18.30, 15.3.51) reported that when the "Israeli-Transjordan" Armistice Commission continued its discussions of the Beit Jibrin incidents, it decided that both sides had acted illegally and that the recurrence of such incidents should be prevented. It therefore decided that the frontier in this district must be clearly marked and that direct telephonic communications between the Israeli village of Beit Jibrin and the "Transjordan" village of (?Tarkonia) would be established so that the local military commanders could make contact with each other when necessary. Human listeners to the Israeli radio (18.00, 17.3.51), after being informed of the Armistice Commission's decision, were reminded that an irregular Israeli formation had entered the "Transjordan" village of Kidna after Arab infiltrators from "Transjordan" had reportedly penetrated into Israeli territory and committed acts of sabotage and robbery. The complaints made at the time by the Israeli authorities had been disregarded by "Transjordan" which, moreover, had recently stopped attending the meetings of the Commission. Only after the inhabitants of Kidna had experienced the methods used by Arab infiltrators in Israeli frontier villages had the Commission been able to meet again with the participation of the representatives of Israel, "Transjordan" and the UN. The resolution which was unanimously approved officially established that the Israeli reaction was caused by the activities of Arab infiltrators and the indifference of the "Transjordan" frontier guards.

In a commentary in Yiddish (Israel 17.00, 16.3.51), Ruben Rubinstein asserted that for many months "the legionaries from Transjordan and instruments of power of Abdullah's State" had taken part in illegal smuggling of Arab thieves and bandits over the frontier. Dozens of complaints had been made to the Armistice Commission, with no effect. - The Israeli Army then "began to talk in another language" and "Transjordan suddenly became terribly pacifist". She was now cooperating with the Israeli Army in defence of the frontier and was prepared to take all necessary measures to end infiltration into Israeli territory.

On the other hand, Beirut radio (11.00, 16.3.51 - FBIS) reported that the Israeli-Jordanian Armistice Commission had passed a resolution "denouncing Jewish bombardment of a certain Arab village", which was regarded as a breach of the armistice. The Jewish representative was said to have admitted this breach and undertaken to prevent a recurrence. Similar reports were broadcast by the Iraqi and Saudi Arabian radios. (Baghdad 05.00, 18.3.51 - FBIS and Saudi Arabia 18.00, *14/3/51*)

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS CANBERRA.

175/11/29
#6

Name of Paper:..... *D.M.R. (New York)*

File No:.....

Published at:..... *Melbourne*

Page No :.....

Date:;;;..... *16/3/57*

JORDAN-ISRAEL BORDER CLASHES BEFORE U.N. At the U.N. in New York recent frontier military actions by both Jordan and Israel have been condemned by the U.N. Israeli-Jordan Armistice Commission. The Commission today adopted a resolution condemning Israeli shelling of an Arab village on March 7th. But the Commission traced the incident to violations of the armistice by Jordan residents. In order to prevent such incidents in the future the Commission ordered clear marking of frontier lines between the two nations.



In reply quote No. P/2/2.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

Memo No. 285/51.

8th March, 1951.

175/11/29

MEMORANDUM for:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Frontier clashes between Israel/
Transjordan troops and irregulars.

In a recent Memorandum, I reported that, on February 15th 1951, the Deputy Chiefs of Staff of the Israel and Transjordan Armies met in conference, decided upon measures to stop and undertook to prevent infiltration across the Israel/Transjordan frontier and unlawful action on the part of regular and/or irregular forces of their respective countries. Since that meeting, marauding practically stopped along the northern and central stretches of the Israel/Jordan frontier, but there has been no noticeable easing of the situation south of Jerusalem; indeed Israel Army headquarters take a very serious view of the deterioration in the situation over the past few weeks. The main concentration of the Jordan bandits and irregular forces appears, at present, to be in the wastelands east of the Hartuv - Bet Guvrin road where the population is much more dispersed than in the central area of this region. The map reference of the Hartuv - Bet Guvrin road is approximately 34°57' E. x 31°35' N. as the central of the troubled area- Bet Guvrin or, as it is known, Beit Jibrin.

2. The Jordan irregulars in this area operate in bands of 50, 60, 70 and more persons. They mine roads, send organized parties deep into Israel territory to murder plunder and loot, and are, apparently well armed.

3. Over the past week, Israel Army units have been "combing" the area, and a number of clashes with these irregulars has been reported. On several successive days, Israel Army vehicles have been blown-up when passing over roads mined by the Arabs. A number of casualties were reported.

4. The Jordan press reports that following this incident, Israel authorities presented Jordan authorities with an ultimatum that, unless Jordan took action within two days, Israel would see itself free to discontinue cooperation along armistice lines. Jordan, the report continued, gave assurances that these mines were remnants of the war, and that steps would

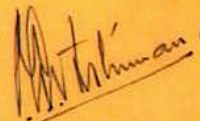
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Com. Nelson W
P.H.

be taken against marauders - if it could be proved that they were responsible for the explosions. Israel Army units fired 147 mortars on Inda village across the frontier - so the report said.

5. Elsewhere, further south in the Negev, Jordan irregular forces have been rounded up and a number has been killed. An almost daily feature of the press for past week has been the casualties inflicted on Jordan bandits and irregulars by Israel Army detachments.

6. The situation south of Jerusalem is far from being quiet.



O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 254/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION,
TEL AVIV.

2nd March, 1951.

175/11/29

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Transjordan relations.

There has been a number of complaints lately that Israel troops have violated Transjordan territory and have fired on Arab villages and villagers. The Transjordan newspaper, "Falastin", published in the Old City of Jerusalem, stated, on February 28th 1951, that, in pursuance of the Anglo-Jordan Treaty, the Jordan Government has lodged a comprehensive complaint with the British Foreign Office.

*In Nelson
in PA*

O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

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P/17/9.

Memo. No. 254/51.

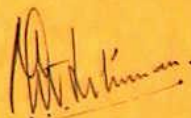
2nd March, 1951.

MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: Israel/Transjordan relations.

There has been a number of complaints lately that Israel troops have violated Transjordan territory and have fired on Arab villages and villagers. The Transjordan newspaper, "Falastin", published in the Old City of Jerusalem, stated, on February 28th 1951, that, in pursuance of the Anglo-Jordan Treaty, the Jordan Government has lodged a comprehensive complaint with the British Foreign Office.



O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.



In reply quote No. P/17/9.
Memo. No. 211/51.

AUSTRALIAN LEGATION.
TEL AVIV.

20th February, 1951.

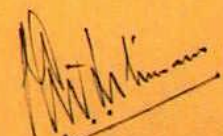
175/11/29
MEMORANDUM for:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA. A.C.T.

Subject: An incident in the Triangle: complaint by
Transjordan.

1. The Transjordan authorities have complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission that, on Friday February 18th 1951, an Israel armed and uniformed force estimated at 200 attacked Arab shepherds near Arabbuna village in the Gilboa Hills.
2. Arabbuna, which is about seven kilometres ($4\frac{1}{2}$ miles) north-east of Jenin and about thirteen kilometres (8 miles) due west of Beisan - map reference $35^{\circ}22'E \times 32^{\circ}32'N$, is atop the plateau on the escarpment that forms the southern border of the eastern end of the Emek Jezreel.
3. The Transjordan story is that Israel armed forces opened fire on Arab shepherds in the area named and began driving their flocks into Israel territory. Arab Legion forces, assisted by Transjordan National Guards are said to have pursued the attackers, and, after an intermittent exchange of rifle fire lasting two hours, retrieved the livestock. Hostilities were stopped by a Mixed Armistice Commission team which immediately proceeded to the spot upon the incident being reported.
4. Israel authorities aver that the Arabs take advantage of the comparative isolation of this area to graze their flocks in Israel territory which abuts the village of Arabbuna; also, that Israel patrols have frequently encountered Jordan shepherds with flocks in this district and that the arrest of the trespassers and confiscation of their livestock was often resisted by fire from the near-by Arabbuna village. This is apparently what happened on the 18th instant.
5. The Mixed Armistice Commission enquired into this incident promptly. It agreed that both sides may have violated the demarcation line; also, that the frontier may have been crossed illegally by a "detachment of the Israel Army and Arab shepherds"; that rifle fire was exchanged, and that, in future, both sides should endeavour to keep within their respective borders.

Di. Nelson - send copy to UN
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O.C.W. Fuhrman,
Australian Minister.

